



Ministry of Water and Irrigation Secretary General Qusay Qteishat Wednesday holds a press conference at the ministry (Petra photo)

Ministry to enforce strict rules on sales of water to public

AMMAN (Petra) — As of mid-January the Ministry of Water and Irrigation will start stricter monitoring of water trucks and the rates charged by their owners, according to Qusay Qteishat, the ministry's secretary general.

Mr. Qteishat told a press conference that each water spring owner selling water to the public will have to pay a JD500 annual fee and will be subject to regular control by the ministry to ensure that the water is potable.

Acting in conjunction with

the health ministry, the water ministry will conduct inspections and test the water. Springs failing the tests will be shut down, said Mr. Qteishat.

Water spring owners have three months to obtain a license to sell water, he said.

He warned that without a license, no water spring will be permitted to operate.

Water truck operators must also obtain a license from the Department for Licensing Drivers and Vehicles and affix an official label on the sides of their trucks

which indicates that they are licensed, according to Mr. Qteishat. He added that the Public Security Department (PSD) would also cooperate with the two ministries in ensuring the effectiveness of these measures.

Mr. Qteishat also said that one cubic metre of water sells for 300 fils to the water truck operators, and is to be resold at JD1.75 and JD1.5 to the public in Western Amman and other areas respectively.

He said the new water rates for the trucks would go into effect next week.

Zarqa police arrest suspects in robbery, imposter cases

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

ZARQA — Police warned citizens and especially foreign residents to verify the identification of anyone approaching them asking for their papers or to enter their houses for official reasons following several incidents in Zarqa and Amman in which four suspects were apprehended for posing as police officers, assistant director of the Zarqa Police Department Colonel Adnan Abdallat said Wednesday.

"Anybody has the right to ask any police officer who requests to search them or their homes or cars for a police identification card," Col. Abdallat said.

According to Col. Abdallat, the latest arrest took place on Monday, when police apprehended four men in their mid-20s suspected of impersonating police officers and robbing foreign labourers, who the colonel declined to identify, in Zarqa and Amman.

He said the suspects on the first incident posed as officials to workers in Ruseifeh. One of the men was wearing a corporal's uniform and carrying a gun, and the other three, in civil uniform, claimed they were police officers.

They told the workers they

were checking work permits and searched their house. During the search operation, they stole \$1,000 and JD 130, he said.

The same day, he said they "repeated the crime in the same area, and this time the men took \$300 and JD 120."

In an earlier incident on Jan. 7, he said, the suspects targeted foreign labourers in Al Ghourieh area in Zarqa, and took JD 120.

He said the victims informed police that the suspects were riding a taxi.

"We sealed the area and started looking for a taxi carrying a man wearing a policeman's uniform," said Col. Abdallat.

After an intensive search, police pulled over a taxi and apprehended the suspect after a short chase and an exchange of gunfire between the suspect and police.

Col. Abdallat said the suspect had a criminal record and was unemployed; he said the suspect confessed and identified the other three accomplices.

He said police apprehended the other three and recovered 90 per cent of the stolen money.

In another incident that took place on New Year's Eve, Col. Abdallat said, police apprehended a 35-year-old man who attacked a doctor's residence with an automatic gun in Al Ruseifeh area in Zarqa.

According to Col. Abdallat, police are questioning the intruder to determine his motives.

"It is possible that the man wanted to steal money from the doctor because he owned a private surgery clinic and also worked at a company," he said.

Col. Abdallat said that the doctor had performed surgery on the suspect four months ago. The official however would not relate the incident to the surgery.

Col. Abdallat did not identify any of the suspects, and said that police were investigating the incident.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

FILMS

- ★ Film entitled "The Accidental Tourist" at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.
- ★ Film entitled "Dulces Horas" at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Center) on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

CONCERT

- ★ Concert by Al Ibd'a' Band at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art on Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

- ★ Poetry recital by Palestinian poet Samih Al Qassim at the Phoenix

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition entitled "Phase II-Doors and Windows" by Jordanian artist Ghada Dahdaleh. Also showing an exhibition by contemporary Arab artists at Darat Al Funun.
- ★ Exhibition of works by Hala Mahayni at the Petra International Hotel in Aqaba.
- ★ Exhibition of abstract art by Zakaria Barakat at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of works by Sead Khalil at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Ismail and Tamam Shamout at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

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- Departure time from Petra at 5:00 p.m.
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Conference discusses how to tackle disabilities, congenital diseases

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The issue of disabilities and congenital diseases, brought further to light by a proposed law to require couples to undergo premarital blood tests, was tackled by concerned institutions Wednesday at the opening of a two-day conference.

In a lecture presented by Professor of Paediatric Medicine at Jordan University Abdul Karim Al Qudah

cess in the elimination of poverty, disease and hunger and to the realisation of equitable and sustainable development," Dr. Bahous said at the opening of the two-day session organised by the National Federation of the Business and Professional Women's Clubs (BPWC) and UNICEF, and attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor, the honorary president of the BPWC.

According to Dr. Bahous, approximately 150 million disabled children are among the 500 million disabled people worldwide.

Furthermore, she said that more than 80 per cent of all disabled persons live in developing countries and "less than three per cent of the disabled persons in the developing countries receive rehabilitation services of any kind."

"The World Health Organisation (WHO) statistics showed that in any society 7-10 per cent of the population in any country in the world will have some kind of disability," Dr. Bahous said, addressing 130 participants attending the conference.

During the lecture, Dr. Bahous referred to one of UNICEF's projects, the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR), which she said is an approach that presents an opportunity to reach a far larger number of children through the active in-

volvement of their families, neighbourhood and the community.

Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday attended the first day of a conference on disabilities and congenital diseases. Also on the podium from right to left are Planning and Development Adviser to the

Queen In'am Maiti, President of the Business and Professional Women's Club Hind Abdini Jaber and UNICEF Information and Communication Officer Sima

Bahous (Petra photo)

rammes were implemented," she added.

Hind Abdini Jaber, president of BPWC, told the gathering that voluntary groups and official organisations should cooperate in spreading awareness through the media and other avenues to curb the rising number of children born with disabilities.

The conference, held at the Inter-Continental Hotel, and

attended by representatives of various ministries and private and public institutions, will discuss five papers: cancer and heredity; early diagnosis of congenital disease before birth; the religious opinions regarding congenital disease and abortion; handicaps and criminal behaviour, and the role of the Diagnosis Centre at the Ministry of Health on preventing handicaps.

That appeared to narrow down the controversy to the differing approaches of moneychangers rather than any basic question on the authenticity of the currency.

But Marwan Al Alami Exchange said his firm was refusing to accept similar bills. "We have our own system of verifying the authenticity of currency," he said.

"We will wait until Swiss or

American authorities certify that these notes are

genuine."

"We are willing to accept a certification by the embassy of the U.S.," he added. "No U.S. diplomat was available for statement."

According to Mr. Alami, it is not only the colour but also the texture of the notes that gives rise to suspicions.

"When you have dealt with a particular currency for a long time, you get a feeling the moment you hold a note in your hand," said Mr. Alami. In this case, he said, "there is something amiss."

But Mr. Kababiti insisted

that there was "nothing wrong with the paper," and that the "problem is only with the slight difference in colour."

American dollars, in the late 80s. Law enforcement authorities launched a wide crackdown and busted several gangs engaged in distributing forged currencies. Dozens were jailed; some of them are still serving sentences.

International currency experts agreed that part of the currency printed in 1990 by the U.S. government was slightly lighter in colour, but that the bills were widely accepted. They said Jordanian exchange firms were extremely cautious and the slightest doubt cast on the authenticity of any currency, whether American or otherwise, was enough for them to stop dealing in that currency.

Many believe that the "super-G" notes are the most difficult to detect among the forged currencies circulating in the Middle East. "They are crafted so skillfully that they successfully pass through some of the sophisticated laser machines designed to check currency," said an expert.

Many believe that the "super-G" notes originate in Iran, a country traditionally known for its skillful craftsmen. The Iranian government has reported the busting of several major counterfeit groups in the last few years.

A U.S. congressional panel

accused Iraq of printing "high-quality" American banknotes and distributing them in the market with Syrian help. Both Tehran and Damascus denied the charge.

Police clear \$100 bills printed in 1990 as controversy lingers

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Despite official assurances that American banknotes of \$100 denominations printed in 1990 were forged, the fate of such bills in Jordan appeared destined to remain in controversy for some time on Wednesday.

Several moneychangers said they were sceptical over the results of tests conducted by Jordanian authorities and that they would refuse to deal in the bills before international currency experts certify that the bills were not forged.

But Mutib Al Kababiti, head of the Jordanian Moneychangers Association, said a majority of the exchange houses in Jordan had accepted the verdict of the Anti-Narcotics and Anti-Forgery Department that the bills were genuine.

"We have extensive experience in dealing in currency, and we can easily spot forgeries," said Mr. Kababiti. "In general, Jordanian moneychangers are very

careful and do not allow forgeries to escape them."

The controversy over the \$100 notes printed in 1990 surfaced a few days ago when it was reported that part of \$35,000 presented by a local businessman were slightly yellowish in colour and could be counterfeit.

Mr. Kababiti said his firm was approached by the businessman, whom he did not identify, but the sale did not take place because of "disagreement over the exchange rate."

"We did not turn him down, because of any doubt over the validity of the currency," said Mr. Kababiti, whose firm is one of the oldest exchange houses in the country.

Subsequently, the businessman, who is believed to have received the "suspect" notes from a local commercial bank, went to another dealer who suspected the notes were forged. Police were called in, and the bills were put through tests which proved their authenticity, Mr. Kababiti said.

A police statement carried

in the local press on Wednesday assured the public of the authenticity of the \$100 notes printed in 1990.

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U.S., Pakistan revive security dialogue dormant since 1990

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry and his Pakistani counterpart Aftab Shaaban Meerani agreed Wednesday to revive a security dialogue dormant since 1990.

A U.S. embassy statement said they had decided to revitalise the U.S.-Pakistani consultative group as a forum for annual discussions on "security issues in the post-cold war era."

"The agenda... would include the exchange of perceptions on regional situations, threat briefings, joint military exercises/training of military officers in both countries, and identification of areas of mutual cooperation," it said.

The group met 10 times after it was set up in 1984 but stopped work after Washington cut off military and economic aid five years ago over Pakistan's alleged nuclear ambitions.

Mr. Perry, who arrived in Pakistan Tuesday, met Air Marshal Farooq Feroze, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, and army chief General Abdul Wahed in Islamabad Wednesday.

He then flew to the northwestern city of Peshawar to meet Pakistani troops in the Khyber Pass on the rugged Afghan border.

U.S. Ambassador John Monjo has visited several rival Afghan leaders in the past month to back United Nations efforts to halt a civil war which has cost about 15,000 lives since 1992.

The United States is

alarmed about growth in opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the world's second and third biggest producers of opium, from which heroin is made.

According to U.S. estimates, Afghan opium production jumped 39 per cent to 950 tonnes last year from 685 tonnes in 1993. Pakistan's output rose to 160 tonnes from 140 tonnes.

Pakistan, the main conduit for Western support to Afghan Islamic guerrillas fighting Soviet occupation in the 1980s, was the third largest recipient of U.S. aid until 1990.

During his visit, Mr. Perry has also been discussing how the United States and Pakistan can improve cooperation in peacekeeping missions around the world.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Mr. Perry had promised that U.S. Marines would provide cover for 6,000 Pakistani U.N. peacekeeping troops when they leave Somalia in March.

He said a force of at least 1,000 U.S. Marines would come ashore in Mogadishu to ensure that the Pakistanis, due to be the last U.N. troops to leave Somalia, can withdraw safely.

U.S. and Pakistani troops served side-by-side — and took casualties — in Somalia, along with other contingents in a U.N. force sent in 1992 to protect humanitarian agencies trying to relieve famine amid civil war in the Horn of Africa country.

President Bill Clinton's administration's military planning and officials hope to resume negotiations with Moscow in March on how to reconcile the system with the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty.

Democrats fear deployment of the system could violate the treaty, while Republicans are concerned that negotiations with Russia could result in restrictions that would bar development of still more advanced systems.

If "quoted" White House officials as saying Mr. Clinton ordered the tests to proceed after accepting a Defense Department finding that they will be legal under the treaty.

The paper quoted senior officials as saying similar notification had been sent to Congress, where key members of both parties have their own reservations about the short-range missile defense programme.

Development of the so-called Theatre High Altitude Area Defence System, or THAAD, is a cornerstone of

Spain's Socialists take legal action over claims it led dirty war

MADRID (AFP) — Spain's Socialist government went to court to battle allegations it set up hit squads to kill Basque separatists in the 1980s, filing a suit against the jailed former policeman behind the accusations.

Facing one of the most serious political crises in its 12 years in power, the Socialist government "is exercising its right to self-defence," said Secretary of State for Justice Maria Teresa Fernandez de Vega.

The suit, filed late Tuesday, targets Jose Amedo, a former policeman who accused the government of being behind the creation of the Anti-terrorist Liberation Groups (GAL), which killed 24 suspected Basque separatists in a series of terrorist attacks.

But Judge Fernandez de Vega said the government was also considering taking legal action against the leader and a deputy of the opposition United Left coalition who accused Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez of personal involvement in the creation of GAL.

Mr. Amedo, who unleashed the uproar with allegations made in a series of interviews with the newspaper *El Mundo*, was sentenced in 1991 to 108 years in prison for involvement in six attempted murders organised by the GAL.

Mr. Gonzalez denied any involvement in GAL activities in a televised address.

told Reuters that after two difficult years as secretary of state in which he endured often withering criticism, Mr. Christopher in December was indeed "mulling over his future, assessing where he stood... it was not clear he was staying."

But the White House, which is making a major effort to get Bill Clinton's endangered presidency back on track with a renewed focus on domestic issues, "doesn't want to deal with this. They aren't interested in talking about Christopher's departure," he said.

Meanwhile, strengthening his hand for the 1996 election, President Clinton plans to put the battered Democratic Party under an ally who would help him fight the coming political wars, the White House said Tuesday.

In a strategic move similar to one Republican President Ronald Reagan made in the 1980s, Mr. Clinton would have Democratic Sen. Christopher Dodd of Connecticut, a seasoned and wily veteran of Washington politics, serve as part-time "general chairman" post in the Republican hierarchy.

While Mr. Clinton's choice of Sen. Dodd was not an exact parallel — Sen. Dodd being much more the feisty activist than Sen. Laxalt — it was the same sort of move, tailored to Mr. Clinton's needs for an energetic and trustworthy ally and friend general.

A White House official

said traditional "national chairman" running the party's day-to-day operations.

The choice of Sen. Dodd was a clear signal of how the president means to re-establish his grip over a party demoralised by its election defeat in November last year, when it lost control of Congress to the Republicans for the first time in 40 years.

Mr. Clinton needs to whip the party into fighting shape for what could be an uphill run for his own re-election.

The Democrats have been without a leader since year's end, when the resignation of former Chairman David Wilhelm, who had been criticised for ineffectiveness, took effect.

Mr. Reagan, in the 1980s, elevated Nevada Sen. Paul Laxalt, a close personal friend and conservative soulmate, to a similar "general chairman" post in the Republican hierarchy.

While Mr. Clinton's choice of Sen. Dodd was not an exact parallel — Sen. Dodd being much more the feisty activist than Sen. Laxalt — it was the same sort of move, tailored to Mr. Clinton's needs for an energetic and trustworthy ally and friend general.

"So I just have to say... the rumours of my imminent departure are neither new nor accurate," he added.

The Boston Globe, in a front-page story, said Christopher told his closest aides before Christmas he intended soon to leave the job he has described as the capstone of his career.

A White House official

assured Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto when they met Tuesday that Washington would take an even-handed approach towards arch-foes Pakistan and India, a government source said.

He also said he would discuss the strains in relations between the two countries, at loggerheads over Kashmir, during his visit to India which begins Thursday.

Ms. Bhutto said Mr. Perry's visit, the first by a U.S. defense secretary to Pakistan in 12 years, showed U.S.-Pakistani ties were broadening despite differences over nuclear policy.

Mr. Perry arrived in New Delhi Thursday for a three-day visit aimed at forging an Indo-U.S. strategic and military relationship in the post-Cold War era.

Sales of U.S. defence equipment to India's Soviet-equipped armed forces, joint military exercises and India's role in U.N. peacekeeping missions are expected to figure high on the agenda for Mr. Perry's talks here, U.S. officials said.

They said Mr. Perry would stress that with the end of the superpower rivalry, Washington is looking for "even-handed" defence relations with New Delhi and Islamabad.

Persistent tensions between India and Pakistan over Kashmir and India's nuclear programme would be put on the backburner, they said.

Democrats fear deployment of the system could violate the treaty, while Republicans are concerned that negotiations with Russia could result in restrictions that would bar development of still more advanced systems.

Senior House Republicans asked President Clinton last week to suspend the negotiations with Russia until they could review the entire issue.

The paper said the administration officials were confident 14 flight tests of THAAD planned over the next two years would not violate the ABM treaty or breach any agreement with Russia, because they are demonstration tests and not tests of a complete system that could process data from space-based sensors.

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State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) said efforts to put out the fire in the well, in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, were hampered by the intense heat.

The scorching heat is felt from a distance of half a kilometre (a third of a mile), said A.M. Bhat, the ONGC official who is supervising firefighting operations.

The well is next to the remote Bodasakurnu village in the coastal east Godavari District, about 500 kilometres east of the state capital, Hyderabad.

The fire is in an area of five to 10 square metres and the flames are still rising up to 100 metres into the sky," Mr. Bhat said.

The fire erupted Sunday evening as gas spewed from a depth of 2,777 metres (9,110 feet) during a drilling operation.

Hot, black, billowing smoke singed nearby coconut groves and turned lush green paddy fields to grey, residents said.

In certain sectors of Bill Clinton's government and in the U.S. Congress, there is a growing interest to return to UNESCO, because for some

time the conditions have existed for the U.S. to return," Jorge Wertheim, director of the UNESCO office in New York told AFP Tuesday.

The State Department signalled the U.S. interest in returning to UNESCO by including \$65 million for first year UNESCO dues in the preliminary 1995-96 U.S. budget proposal.

If the funding passed, it

would restore money cut in

1984 when the Republican administration of Ronald Reagan pulled the plug on U.S. participation.

The Reagan administration bailed out of the organisation, blasting UNESCO under the direction of Senator Amadou Mahtar Mbow, accusing him of politicising the organisation in favour of underdeveloped nations.

Philippe police have arrested 21 women staging a protest outside the residence of the Papal envoy to Manila on the eve of Pope John Paul II's visit to the Philippines.

The women had wanted to present a letter to the Pope urging him to seek the release of 291 political prisoners detained in Philippine jails.

Dozens of the prisoners have been on a hunger-strike for nine days demanding they be freed.

The Pope is to arrive in Manila Thursday for a four-day visit at the start of a four-nation Asia-Pacific tour.

"We urge you as the leader of one of the most powerful churches in the world today to listen to the voices of hundreds of prisoners of conscience still languishing in jail," said the demonstrators, who belong to the militant women's group Gabriela.

The prisoners, most of whom belong to leftist groups, have accused the government of unjustly detaining them by charging them with common crimes, such as murder.

The police accused the women of illegal assembly.

Britain wonders: Will Charles divorce Diana to marry Camilla?

LONDON (AFP) — Britain bristled with curiosity Wednesday about the next chapter in the royal family saga after Camilla Parker-Bowles, Prince Charles' long-time girlfriend, announced she and her estranged husband were divorcing.

Would the heir to the throne of England now divorce his own estranged wife, Princess Diana?

And if he did, would he then marry Mrs. Parker-Bowles, with whom he has admitted having had three separate affairs over 25 years?

And if he did, could he still become king?

And if he did, could Mrs. Parker-Bowles become "Queen Camilla?"

Coincidentally, it emerged, the Parker-Bowles' secretly began their legal separation barely a month after that of Prince Charles and Princess Diana in December 1992. British law requires a two-year separation for uncontested divorce.

Prince Charles' aides insisted that no divorce was in the offing.

And experts said there was no constitutional impediment to a divorced prince marrying a divorced and becoming king.

There were the inevitable comparisons to Edward VIII, who in 1936 won the heart of romantics the world over when, forced by the government to choose, he abdicated the throne to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson.

Margaret Holder, who has written extensively on the royal family, noted the "huge similarities" saying, "We are moving towards the same situation."

"The first ball started rolling then with the Simpsons' divorce and now we have the Parker-Bowles' divorce," she said, adding it only remained for the Charles-Diana divorce to be "rather stamped."

"Everyone will be wondering whether he will inflict



A file picture dated Jan. 6, 1994 shows Camilla Parker-Bowles, a close friend of the Prince of Wales, and her husband Andrew. (AP photo)

Camilla on the country as queen, which is as unwelcome a prospect as 'Queen Wallis' was in 1936," said Ms. Holder.

But would Prince Charles follow King Edward's example and renounce power, fame and fortune for love? Not jolly likely, was the consensus among royal watchers.

More probably, they said, Prince Charles would seek to avail himself of the more relaxed social codex of the late 20th Century and have his cake and eat it.

Should the royal couple divorce, said observers, Prince Charles would likely continue seeing Mrs. Parker-Bowles, but without benefit of royal matrimony.

There were serious considerations. A royal marriage is primarily an event of state involving the government,

"I don't think the country is ready for Camilla to be the next queen," he said.

24 California counties in state of emergency as storms kill 5 people

LOS ANGELES, California (AFP) — At least five deaths were blamed on major flooding caused by more than a week of torrential rain in California that have sent thousands fleeing their homes.

Governor Pete Wilson declared 24 states of emergency in 24 counties and President Bill Clinton declared a federal disaster area, freeing up aid for rebuilding.

Swollen rivers, falling trees and power lines have claimed at least five lives in the past two days, one of them in neighbouring Oregon state.

Some 10,000 people have been evacuated from their homes throughout the state.

National Guard helicopters were used to rescue residents from one of the worst-hit

areas in Guerneville, around 100 kilometres (60 miles) north of San Francisco, as the Russian River crested 5.2 metres (17 feet) above flood stage.

"Water is almost to the top of street signs in some locations," said a spokeswoman for the sheriff's department.

The storms continued unabated Tuesday for the eighth consecutive day pushing rivers to record levels especially in Napa and Sonoma counties. More rain was forecast through the weekend.

Several highways were closed to traffic because of flooding, and a 145-kilometre (90-mile) stretch of railroad track between Los Angeles and San Luis Obispo lay under water, forcing cancellation of Amtrak services.

"We have assured the holy father and his delegation and all his admirers, supporters and friends all over the world that the holy father will be safe during his visit to the Philippines," Mr. Ramos said.

Newspapers said police seized four bombs and a priest's robes from the apartment of the arrested Pakistani, who reportedly arrived in the Philippines on Dec. 6.

Residents of the building said police were alerted Friday night when smoke began to leak out of the Pakistani's sixth floor room.

Police also found bombing equipment, timing devices, several Bibles and a picture of the Pontiff inside, the newspapers said.

The apartment building is about 300 metres from the nunciature, or residence, of the Vatican's envoy to the Philippines, where the Pontiff is to stay during his visit.

In Manila, he will take part in the celebration of World Youth Day, when up to a million young people from dozens of nations will listen to his message Sunday.

The Pope is to arrive in Manila Thursday at the start of a gruelling 33,415-kilometres Asia-Pacific trip also taking in Papua New Guinea, Australia and Sri Lanka.

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World News

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JANUARY 12-13, 1995



GALAXIES COLLIDE: This Hubble space telescope image released by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) shows a head-on collision between two galaxies in a true colour image of the Cartwheel Galaxy, located 500-million light years from Earth in the constellation of Sculptor.

According to NASA the ring-like appearance is a direct result of an intruder galaxy "possibly one of the two objects to the right of the ring" that passed through the core of the host galaxy (AFP photo)

Colombo accused of breaking truce pact

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Sri Lanka's separatist Tamil Tigers accused the government Wednesday of violating a truce pact by restricting fishing in the troubled northern waters, as a cabinet minister called for a permanent ceasefire.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said over their clandestine radio, the Voice of Tigers, that President Chandrika Kumaratunga's government violated their agreement by not totally lifting a ban on fishing.

"We agreed to keep away from army and navy camps in the northeast... But the government has violated the agreement by limiting fishing for 12 hours during daytime," the radio said in a broadcast monitored by Tamil civilians.

The Tigers said their chief negotiator, Thamil Chelvan, who is also the head of the LTTE political section, had already lodged a protest with the head of the government peace team, Kusumarsi Balapatabendi.

Following the true agreement, which went into effect Sunday, the navy declared areas where fishing could be carried out in shallow waters. However, a ban on deep sea fishing was not lifted.

The Tiger protest came as Energy Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte expressed the hope that the government would be able to establish a permanent "cessation of hostilities" with Tigers who have been battling for independence since 1972.

Wednesday, defence officials said.

"They had a brief meeting to discuss ways of avoiding accidental violations of the pact. Both had tea and it was a cordial meeting," the official said.

The military has listed as the main violation a grenade attack on their troops outside the northeastern Weli Oya army camp Tuesday. Mr. Ratwatte denied the army fired back but defence sources said there was a 15-minute fire fight.

Military commanders have privately expressed concern over construction activity along Tiger defence lines, especially in the island's northern province where the rebels have been enjoying an advantage over security forces.

Meanwhile unidentified attackers set fire to a shrine, room and damaged statues of the Buddha at a temple outside the Buddhist temple in northern Sri Lanka's capital Colombo Wednesday, a day after a fire at a Catholic Church.

Some residents linked the temple attack and the church fire to Pope John Paul's visit to Sri Lanka next month.

"We are convinced that the LTTE is doing its best to ensure that their cadres observe the cessation of hostilities agreement," Mr. Ratwatte said adding that violations so far had been minor.

In the eastern Batticaloa district, the top security force commander Major General H.S. Hapuarachchi met with LTTE area leader Karikalan at a Roman Catholic Church

Blasts rock main Angolan air base

LUANDA (Agencies) —

Angola's main air base, Catumbela, was rocked by several explosions Tuesday night, a government source said Wednesday.

"There was a huge fire and

we could hear explosions all night. Everyone could hear it in Benguela," he said by telephone from the Western coastal city of Benguela.

The cause of the explosions was not immediately known.

Catumbela is 30 kilometres north of Benguela and most of Angola's estimated 130 operational MiG and Sukhoi fighter aircraft were based there, the source said.

But he quoted firefighters as saying they believe none of the aircraft had been damaged in the explosions.

"The firemen were working all through the night and it seems to be under control now," he said Wednesday morning.

An Antonov transport aircraft landed at Catumbela Tuesday evening and the explosions started soon afterwards, he said.

The aircraft based in Catumbela were used in bombing raids against UNITA rebel positions before the signing of a ceasefire between the Angolan government and UNITA two months ago halting nearly 20 years of civil war.

An agreement between military chiefs of the Angolan army and UNITA to strengthen a recent ceasefire has boosted the chances for a peace summit between President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos and rebel leader Jonas Savimbi.

A channel for regular communications is to be opened between the government chief of staff, General Jose Baptista De Matos, and his UNITA counterpart, General Arlindo Chinda Pena "Ben-Ben", under their accord, reached at a meeting Tuesday.

The two men called for an immediate end to all clashes and agreed to disengage their armies, particularly in sensitive areas such as Uige province in the north, Huambo in the centre and Luena in the east, as well as exchanging prisoners.

Groups of officers from both the army and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) are to be formed to oversee demining operations.

The government estimates that more than 15 million mines have been laid during the civil war, which began in 1975.

During the talks at Chipita in Huambo province, Gen. Dos Matos said that "about 300" South African mercenaries had been fighting with government soldiers and a slightly smaller number with UNITA, which was once backed by the former apartheid regimes in Pretoria.

Gen. "Ben-Ben" refused the charge.

Gen. Dos Matos and Gen. "Ben-Ben" are due to hold further talks on Jan. 25, either at Caala in Huambo province or at Wako in the central western province of Cuanza Sul.

Seoul wants flexible policy on N. Korea

SEOUL (Agencies) — President Kim Young-Sam said Wednesday South Korea would adopt a "flexible and creative" attitude towards North Korea to help promote talks and exchanges between the two rivals.

Mr. Kim, in a meeting with security-related cabinet ministers to discuss his administration's 1995 policies, said the North might pursue a policy of confrontation with the South this year to try to drive a wedge between Seoul and Washington.

"We will resolutely cope with this. But we need to take a flexible and creative attitude towards North Korea so that practical inter-Korean dialogue and exchanges can be realised to meet the world trend of easing tensions in the post-cold war era," Mr. Kim was quoted by his spokesman as telling the meeting.

"The most important goal in our diplomacy is to secure peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and open the way for peaceful unification," Mr. Kim said.

Unification Minister Kim Deok said in his report to President Kim the South would seek to expand economic cooperation with Pyongyang and was ready to back the North's bid to develop economic ties with the rest of the world.

"We will extend cooperation in case the North seeks to join international economic organisations such as ADB (Asian Development Bank) and IBRD (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development)," Mr. Kim Deok said.

Defence Minister Lee Yang-Ho said the North might commit military provocations against the South if Kim Jong-Il's administration

which would carry a total of 50,000 tonnes of bunker C oil from the port of Yochon, 300 kilometres south of Seoul, to the northeastern North Korean port of Sondong.

The tanker is expected to leave Thursday while a second ship, the Liberian-registered Lark Lake, will leave Friday, the company official said.

North Korea Monday announced it would open its ports to U.S. shipping and cargo.

In Washington, three-way talks between the United States, South Korea and Japan resumed Monday on providing North Korea with new nuclear technology.

Former U.S. Ambassador to Seoul James Lilly and three other American experts including a U.S.-based Korean professor will visit North Korea Saturday, Yonhap News Agency said Wednesday.

"I've learned that a North Korean institute has asked Mr. Lilly, former ambassador and three experts including a Korean professor in the United States to visit Pyongyang," Yonhap quoted a South Korean government official as saying.

Mr. Kim told cabinet ministers this should be the "first joint project for national development" between the Koreas.

South Korea is expected to pay most of the \$4 billion needed to provide light-water reactors to replace the North's graphite reactors, which produce more bomb-grade plutonium.

Also Wednesday, a South Korean oil refinery loaded a Chinese tanker with a shipment bound for the North, part of the U.S.-North Korean deal.

Washington agreed to arrange a long-term supply of fuel oil to the North while the new nuclear reactors are built.

A spokesman for Honam Oil Refinery Co Ltd said the 67,436-deadweight tonne Da Qing was one of two tankers

U.N., contact group push on with Bosnia peace process

SARAJEVO (R) — United Nations officials and mediators from the international "contact group" on Bosnia sought to push forward the faltering peace process Wednesday as the latest ceasefire came under increasing pressure.

Officials from the five contact group nations — the United States, Russia, Germany, Britain and France — were scheduled to meet Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade before heading for Sarajevo and the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Pale.

At Sarajevo Airport, army commanders from the Serb, Croat and Muslim armies met under the chairmanship of the U.N. military commander in Bosnia, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, in an attempt to put the ceasefire back on track.

The four-month cessation of hostilities agreement signed on Dec. 31 has been threatened by an interminable row between the Serbs and the Muslim-led Bosnian government army over the status of a demilitarised zone near Sarajevo.

The United Nations had despatched yet another foot patrol to the Mount Igman demilitarised zone to verify whether government troops had vacated it as promised under the truce.

U.N. sources said 151 Bosnian troops were caught inside the zone by a U.N. patrol Monday night after government leaders bad insisted the withdrawal had been completed.

U.N. military spokesman Major Herve Gourmelon said the ceasefire was generally holding in most of Bosnia, except for the northwestern enclave of Bihać.

U.N. observers counted 200 artillery explosions and a similar number of small arms bursts around Velika Kladusa in the north of the Bihać pocket, marking a sharp re-

surgence of fighting there.

The clashes appeared to pit the Bosnian government army against Muslim rebels under warlord Fikret Abdic but not rebel Krajina Serbs from Croatia who were previously involved.

"We have indications, although they are not yet confirmed because our observers can't move around freely, that the Krajina Serbs have withdrawn progressively from the area over the past few days," Maj. Gourmelon said.

A U.N. official in the Bihać enclave told Reuters sporadic artillery and small arms fire could be heard Wednesday.

Other incidents elsewhere in Bosnia made clear that the ceasefire agreement was already showing signs of strain.

Increased Bosnian government troop movements were noticed in southwestern Bosnia, in the Mostar region in particular.

Tensions rose around the U.N.-protected Muslim enclave of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia when Bosnian Serbs started moving troops close to front lines.

"This provoked small arms fire from the Bosnian government side," Maj. Gourmelon told reporters.

He also said Bosnian government troops were blocking the U.N.-controlled Tuzla airfield in northern Bosnia in a protest over the stationing of a Serb liaison officer there under terms of the truce accord.

He said government soldiers were violating the spirit of the deal signed by their high command which provided in part for the presence of Serb liaison officers in U.N. compounds situated within government territory.

"Both warring parties agreed to an exchange of liaison officers. This situation is unacceptable," Maj. Gour-

melon said.

The contact group envoys agreed on their trip to Serbia and Bosnia after a meeting in Paris where they heard a report from U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke, who held tough talks with Bosnian government leaders earlier this week.

"The mood was one of determination to give the peace process another last chance," a diplomat in Paris said.

In Washington, the State Department denied Tuesday that there were differences with the Bosnian government over the peace plan. It insisted that Bosnia's Serbs must accept the international plan for the future of the Balkan republic before fresh negotiations could begin between the warring factions.

The "contact group" and the United Nations hope the ceasefire, which went into effect 11 days ago, will take root and help produce a resumption of negotiations.

The Bosnian government and the U.S. embassy in Sarajevo were unable to confirm speculation that former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who brokered the ceasefire when he visited Bosnia last month, would return to the region this week.

Meanwhile Croatia's Prime Minister Nikica Valenčić said Wednesday Croatia will not extend the mandate of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the third of its country occupied by Serbs when it expires at the end of January.

Croatia's interpretation of the mandate differs from that of the United Nations Security Council, which says it runs until the end of March after being renewed for six months on Sept. 30.

"If not, there is a danger of an escalation of the conflict which might extend to the whole former Yugoslavia or even outside," he said.

The decision not to extend the mandate does not mean Croatia has chosen war, Mr. Valenčić said, adding that both Serbia and Croatia know the consequence of war. He was referring to their bitter 1991 conflict during the collapse of the former Yugoslavia.

Speaking of Bosnia, Mr. Valenčić said all parties — especially Serbia and Montenegro — must reach a peaceful political settlement in the remaining three and a half months of the four-month ceasefire.

"Both warring parties agreed to an exchange of liaison officers. This situation is unacceptable," Maj. Gour-

Former Rwandan soldiers raid fishing village

KIGALI (R) — Soldiers loyal to Rwanda's ousted government raided a remote fishing village Wednesday in the first big attack since they fled into exile last July, a U.N. spokesman said.

They were driven back into Zaire after a two-hour gun battle with government troops, Captain Stephane Grenier told reporters.

About 30 armed men attacked Nyamasheke in southwest Rwanda and ambushed 20 fishermen, he said.

Capt. Grenier gave no casualty details but said up to six Rwandan fishermen were missing and several boats were stolen by the retreating gunmen.

The commander of the U.N. Assistant Mission in Rwanda, Major-General Guy Tousignant, said the attack could signal the start of a "well-consolidated and well-planned insurgency campaign" by the exiled troops.

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Weekender

Jan. 12, 1995

Published Every Thursday

1,000-mile walk starts with the first step

By Mohammad Mashaqqa

Not many Jordanian intellectuals are inclined towards accepting the idea of "normalisation with or openness to" the Israeli culture or Israel's society. They are not willing to enter into the subject searching for the good or the bad that separates the two sides.

In the view of Palestinian poet Ghassan Zaqtan, the concept of normalisation is a complete mystery shrouded with ideas like cultural influences, confrontation and cultural "onslaughts" or the like.

The mystery shrouding the concept of normalisation in its cultural or political sense and Arab intellectuals' keenness on shunning Israeli culture are perhaps justified by some people. But one has to admit that this tendency ought to be changed by first ruling out "the hostility elements" not merely for the sake of studying the situation, but indeed to meet the requirements of the coming changes of the modern era.

It is unreasonable for the Arabs to remain revolving in a vicious circle for another 100 years in order to discover that democracy, and technology or respect for human rights, or separating religion from government constitute the real key to development and real civilisation.

For its part Israel has tried to exploit all techniques and tools against Palestinians, exercising the worst possible injustice ever witnessed in modern history and failed to achieve its objectives. For their part, the Islamists call for ignoring the present trend towards normalisation with Israel and prefer leaving the matter for the coming generations who, they believe, can end injustice. But they indeed tend to forget that neither Israel nor the world at large will remain

passive and frozen until the time when the Arabs and Muslims have completed their preparations for the final battle.

In my contacts with Palestinian academics I sensed silent voices advocating new methods for a solution to the present conflict which, in the views of some people, can last for generations to come. These academic elite openly call for openness to the forces of peace that are genuinely inherent within the Israeli society and for a long struggle towards the attainment of the aspired coexistence in this part of the world.

But unfortunately the deep wounds left behind in the Palestinian society, due to years of occupation, have caused so much damage that now stands as a barrier drowning the voices of the elite academics who advocate peaceful coexistence and healing of wounds.

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

Dr. Mustafa Hamarneh, head of the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan asks: "What have the opponents of normalisation done in the face of the cultural, political and social changes in Israel with a view to favourably influencing the Israeli society towards peaceful coexistence with the Arabs."

Hamarneh believes that the progressively-minded Palestinians and Israelis who oppose Jewish settlement policies and occupation have offered a far better service to the Palestinian cause than all the Arab countries' weapons and media and statements through their heroic and daring stand in the face of Jewish settlement programmes at Al Khader village near Bethlehem.

Now that the Jordan-Israel peace treaty has been

signed the need arises for creating new tools for a new struggle, utilising the present realities to halt the Jewish settlement programme and for formulating new tendencies and creating new forces inside Israel to help put pressure on the Israeli government to go ahead with the implementation of the peace process, Hamarneh adds.

His views are echoed by Dr. Ibrahim Othman, professor of sociology at the University of Jordan who believes that openness towards the Israeli society was bound to open the Arab people's eyes to their own civic rights and to the need to see institutions playing the crucial role in social development and in balancing political pluralism. Dr. Othman believes that these signs are bound to emerge in our society sooner or later, motivating the desired change.

It is of paramount importance for us to dissect and scrutinise the various elements and components of the Israeli society so that we can better understand its nature. Otherwise, we are bound to remain satisfied with mere mysterious talk about the society of an "enemy" which we are religiously prohibited to approach.

We have to realise that Israel is made up of diverse elements, uncontrolled by absolute ideologies or by any form of unity. The Israeli society is full of diverse interests on the part of individuals who harbour different ambitions and who independently and freely express their cultural and political views.

But inside Israel one feels that the society there — similar to those of the Arab World — aspires to and has a deep desire for stability, security and sustainable development. Like the Arabs, the Israelis are influenced by positive and adverse regional and international environments.

It is not at all naive to admit that Jordanians, Palestinians and the Arabs at large have a real interest in opening to the Israeli society and all its elements and components, notwithstanding groups of that society who are opposed to peace and coexistence.

With very limited exceptions, the majority of the Israeli society believes that the Arabs are murderers, dishonest and have no respect for agreements, and that should they be offered one area of land, the next day they would demand to have control over Herzliya, or Acre, according to the views of an Israeli cab driver.

Likewise, the Arabs harbour similar notions about the Israelis and the misconceptions cannot be changed overnight. What is of paramount importance now is to start the 1000-mile trip by taking the first sound and firm step forward.

The alternative is a cycle of madness on the part of both parties, ending with the obliteration of the nucleus of the Arab civic society and the individuals' basic rights. This will be the heavy price which could be paid in case the opponents of peace had their way of pursuing the long and futile struggle to destroy the "Jews" who have occupied Arab land.

I am fully aware that sensible Jordanian and Palestinian people who support my views are a minority compared to the majority of those who bear negative concepts and who refuse to budge from their own position.

I also realise that this small minority of sensible people require courage and initiative and probably great sacrifice to leave their mark on history. Irrationality still seems to be prevailing and permeating the Jordanian society, closing all outlets to the outside world.

SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

Change on tail of change: what cabinets leave in their trail



With the changing of the guard at the Prime Ministry, it has been uncustomary that the outgoing premier be present at the swearing in ceremony of his successor's team or at any official function once the reigns of power have been exchanged. But for former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, an act of high civility was noted. Not only was Dr. Majali present at the oath-taking ceremony of the new prime minister and his colleagues before His Majesty King Hussein, it was his name that was mentioned first on the broadcast news of who attended. Even the day after the new cabinet took office, Dr. Majali was again present to see off Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou and his delegation, whom he had received only a few days earlier upon their arrival on an official visit. Dr. Majali who plans to take a holiday in London, capped an historic tenure with a regal exit.

★ ★ ★ ★

FRIENDS AT THE TOP: But, to assure citizens that not all is pomp and circumstance, Dr. Majali introduced Sharif Zeid to guests at a formal dinner for Mr. Papandreou as "this is the man who kicked me out of my job." To that, the prime minister retorted, in jest of course, "you kicked me out of my job before, and now I'm getting my revenge." Whoever said our government was humourless?

★ ★ ★ ★

STORM IN CABINET ROOM: It required a sense of humour from Sharif Zeid again on the first day the cabinet took office, when a crowd of about 70 over-eager well-wishers stormed into a Cabinet meeting to congratulate the prime minister. Stunned, but quick to the draw, the premier gently held back the boisterous bunch by promising to meet them outside the chamber in short order. And that, he did with more ease than one of his ministers could muster only minutes later. The minister was holding an official meeting with an Arab delegation at the Prime Ministry when a certain member of Parliament barged in, demanding that members of the cabinet be available "for receiving congratulations" from him and other MPs right away. Upset by the discourteous attitude of his fellow deputy the minister got up and gave him a dressing down. It is all part of the change, of course, including in friendships and attitudes.

★ ★ ★ ★

COMPARE IN HIGH PLACES: The big surprise to most political pundits in town was not the appointment of a totally new face to government, namely that of prominent businessman Sami Darwazeh (Energy), but that of Abdul Ilah Al Khatib who took the Tourism Ministry. Known to some as the "rising young politician," Khatib took a post in the cabinet as his father-in-law, Fawwaz Abu Ghannam, stepped down as minister of youth. Khatib's wife Iman, no stranger to the diplomatic rigours of having family in high places, knew even before she married, that this was a fellow who would go places. Unfortunately the Jordan Times did not do its home work properly by looking for Khatib's CV well before his impending appointment to the cabinet. So the paper could assemble no more than a few lines on his biography just as he was being sworn in, especially since his home phone sounded like it was off the hook for most of that day. Hence we owe it to our friend the new minister to say exactly what he had been doing in life just before he was chosen for the new post. Born in Salt in 1953, Khatib obtained a bachelors degree in political science in Athens, Greece. He earned a masters in mass communications from American University in Washington, D.C. and another masters in international economics and development from Johns Hopkins University, also in Washington. Khatib served with the Foreign Ministry for several years and was posted at Jordan's embassy in Washington, D.C. in the early 1980s. He was secretary of the steering committee of the Jordanian

delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks until he resigned from government service in May 1993 to enter the private sector. He was assistant director-general for investments of the Middle East Insurance Company, then moved to the Investment Guarantee Company where he was its director general until his appointment to the cabinet this week.

★ ★ ★ ★

BIRDS OF A FEATHER: The ministers of foreign affairs, tourism and planning appeared to be busy forming a coalition at the top of the stairs outside Basman Palace after being sworn in to office last Sunday. Deep in conversation, the (relatively) young, Western-educated and hardworking Abdul Karim Kabariti, Rima Khalaf and Abdul Ilah Al Khatib must have missed the Petra photographer say "watch the birdie" when he shot the group photo of the new cabinet with His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. But the hierarchy of seating the Council of Ministers at its sessions with the premier will force the energetic trio apart, if only for those more composed settings.

★ ★ ★ ★



Abdul Ilah Al Khatib

office. Ministry employees were lined up, gathered, crowded or hovering everywhere from the parking area, through the main entrance of the building and even along the halls of the minister's floor. It became immediately apparent that this amassing of staff was no show of solidarity or salute to their boss. It was an avalanche of last-ditch efforts to request "wasta" for making new government appointments either for themselves, relatives or friends while the man was still in power. Unfortunately for them, this minister told those would-be favour seekers that inequity was not his style. Dr. Majali did in fact ask his outgoing ministers not to give out any job while the cabinet was a lame duck, and they happily complied.

★ ★ ★ ★

FROM STILL OFFICE TO AIR WAVES: As if by design and not coincidence, Mohammad Said Bermant, former director of the press office at the Prime Ministry, started a new job last week as Director of television news at JTV, succeeding Abdul Halim Arabyat who became deputy to JTV Director Nasser Judeh. Did Bermant know that the whole cabinet was leaving office, or he just chose to opt out of the Prime Ministry, where he had served for many years, regardless of who was left behind? We do not know. But we do know that Bermant graduated from the University of Jordan with a B.A. in political science in 1976. He has been a public servant for 17 years, mostly at the Prime Ministry, where he was press secretary and then press office director for the last three years. Bermant says of his new post that "it is not a one-person effort, it requires the help of colleagues." His goal is to "make clear the stand of Jordan in all aspects, politically, socially, economically, in order to portray a good image of the Kingdom through JTV, especially in this era." Bermant says he is first feeling his way through the situation at the station, getting to know his colleagues and then will form some targets with the JTV team to bring viewers "balanced" news reporting. Bermant (40) and his wife Basma, an architectural engineer, have two children aged 11 and four.

Jennifer Hamarneh

Thoughts for this week

Age is strictly a case of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter — Jack Benny (1894-1974).

Our greatest glory is not in never failing, but in rising every time we fall — Confucius, Chinese philosopher (551 B.C.-479 B.C.).

We are what we pretend to be so we must be careful what we pretend to be — Kurt Vonnegut, American author (1922-).

Health is the thing that makes you feel that now is the best time of the year — Franklin P. Adams, American journalist (1881-1960).

We live by encouragement and die without it — slowly, sadly and angrily — Celeste Holm, American actress.

Priests are no more necessary to religion than politicians to patriotism — John Hayne Holmes, American author and reformer (1879-1964).

Open-mindedness is not the same as empty-mindedness. To hang out a sign saying, "come right in: there is no one at home" is not the equivalent of hospitality — John Dewey, American philosopher and educator (1859-1952).

A matter of time

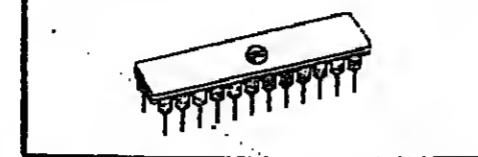
By Jean-Claude Elias

We are living in the age of information. That's at least what we are told. The amount of data a mere mortal can access these days, quickly, simply and inexpensively is absolutely staggering. Entire encyclopedias fit on small, light, reliable laser CD-ROMs (Compact Disc - Read Only Memory). The average capacity of a home computer's hard disk is now 250 MB, or 250 million characters. The straight connection of a PC (personal computer) to the telephone network, through ridiculously simple cables, opens the door to virtually all the information in the world, via the famous Internet or other electronic mail, services, networks and data banks. Is this knowledge? Is this true culture, as those who mass market computer related products want us to believe?

I have no intention here to diving into a philosophical essay, but my perception of knowledge and/or culture, is based on two criteria: autonomy and assimilation. Autonomy means that a physical person, a stand-alone (computer jargon again) body, is able to supply, to restore the required information, by himself/herself, without having to consult additional equipment, books or data storage devices. Anybody can open a dictionary to look up a difficult or rarely used word, knowledge however is knowing it by heart. Assimilation means that the word is fully understood, its meaning completely absorbed, and that the person can use it at best, and in all contexts.

Knowledge and culture can't be achieved without an essential ingredient: time. Like the rhythm of seasons, it's a process impossible to speed. We all have days that last only 24 hours. Whether we are or are not connected to the Internet won't change a thing. An encyclopaedia takes the same time to read, whether on CD-ROM or in book format. True, the

chip talk



laser disc is faster and maybe more pleasant to consult than the traditional format, but the time we may save on fast search is insignificant compared to the time it takes to read, understand and assimilate the information.

The addition of high quality moving images and sound to computer accessed data, known as multimedia, and the possibility to interact with data via a PC, all are invaluable benefits that must be acknowledged. Computer techniques tremendously expand the horizons of our knowledge but do not grant us one second more than what we already have in order to explore them. Actually, a negative effect often takes place. Having all this data potentially at our command with so little time to dig it out, scrutinise it, can be more frustrating than rewarding.

Modern age information systems do not provide any particular means to improve one's knowledge or culture. Books have so far done an excellent job in this regard. Naturally, the availability of huge amounts of data at our fingertips is a great asset. It's a wealth we cannot anymore do without. It will also, most likely, hopefully, contribute to secure us better ways of life, but it won't necessarily make us more cultured. Not instantly at least. Unless future generations redefine and give new meaning to the notions of knowledge and culture.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuaib

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- Make your mind easy.
- Be a man! Take heart!
- Save the mark!
- Let it pass.
- God keep you.
- You make me jump.
- Keep your hair on.
- By the grace of God.
- For goodness sake.
- Don't fail me.
- Stop cracking jokes.
- Mark my words.
- Cut it short.
- Please do accept my invitation.

Arjoo an taqbal da'wati.

TIME FOR FUN

* A friend of mine went to see his neighbour. The host treated him with honey, but it was so tasteless and diluted that the guest could not help commenting:

"Clearly this honey is from the days when the bees hadn't yet learnt how to make honey!"

★ ★ ★ ★

* A young man took his wife to the doctor to have her tonsils removed.

"These tonsils should have been removed while your wife was a child," the doctor said after the operation.

"Indeed?" he answered. "Thank you very much for telling me. In that case just send the bill to my father-in-law."

★ ★ ★ ★

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. What is haemophilia? What famous people have suffered from it? What detective novel deals with it?

2. In what occupation are the following used? Playfair, exposure meter, Bergen, grammologue, crampit, gentle, cheese, bewits, burin, puck.

★ ★ ★ ★

3. Name five (5) great disasters in the nineteenth century which were due to fire.

★ ★ ★ ★

4. Write 3879 in Roman numerals. What is MMMDCXXIX in Arabic figures.

★ ★ ★ ★

5. Complete:

- (a) You can't make a out of a
- (b) You can't put an on
- (c) You can't take a to the, but you can't make it
- (d) You can't take an without
- (e) You can't get out of a

★ ★ ★ ★

PERPLEXITIES

(A) Rearrange and underline which of these towns is not in Europe.

SHANTE — WOOCM — LINAM — GATH — WONNIS — GAIWN

★ ★ ★ ★

(B) Insert the missing number.

7	16	9
5	21	16
9	?	4

★ ★ ★ ★

A 3-day concert now down to 2 CDs

SAUGERTIES, N.Y. (AP) — Sick of Woodstock? Imagine how Larry Hamby must feel.

The shelves in his office at A And M Records are lined with tapes of every musical note played at Woodstock '94. He has listened to those tapes seven days a week — over and over — from the time the concert ended on the morning of Aug. 15, until early October.

Hamby was responsible for piecing together the commemorative compact disc of the summer concert. The two-disc set has just been released.

"I'm not sick of it," Hamby insisted in an interview, "although, I'm ready to take a breather from it."

Distilling three days of music into a 27-song package inevitably means a lot was left out, including a number of big-name artists. But Hamby's proud of what he's done

and thinks he has captured the event's essence.

No artist is represented with more than one song. But it also contains enough out-of-left-field selections that the album takes on its own personality.

While Woodstock '94 was a mixture of the old and new, Hamby's CD is weighed toward younger, hard-rocking artists.

"I didn't want this record to be presented from the veteran rock point of view," he said. "I thought they should be set among the new bands instead of the other way around."

As a result, the Allman Brothers Band, Santana and the band are out. Collective Soul, Candlebox, Primus and Blind Melon are in.

At Woodstock, Hamby commanded a team of more than three dozen people making sure all the music was captured on tape. Two remote record-

ing trucks were parked behind each of the two main stages, and Hamby was camped in an office between them.

Tape was transported throughout the weekend to the Bearsville Studio about 10 miles (16 kms) away, where high-quality copies were made.

While Hamby, an executive who helps guide the careers of A And M Artists, returned to Los Angeles and began reviewing the tapes, he was too exhausted to count how many hours he spent listening.

Handling all of the egos involved was surprisingly easy, he said.

Clear ground rules involving the musicians were set up: The artists had ultimate veto power over which of their songs were selected, but Hamby had the final say over what songs appeared on the album.

For the most part, he

said artists agreed with his choice, even if some persuading was needed. For example, Crosby, Stills and Nash wanted to include their performance of Woodstock, appropriately enough. Hamby thought Deja Vu was a more impressive performance.

While some artists are represented by well-known songs, other choices were more obscure: Sheryl Crow's Run, Baby, Run, Traffic's Pearly Queen, Candelbox's Arrow and the Neville Brothers' cover of Come Together.

cover of Come Together. Hamby wouldn't say which performers were left off because their shows were subpar. But he said most of those cases were weather-related.

That may be a veiled reference to the band, caught in a driving rainstorm during their performance.

Slick and witty, but do they work?

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaaem

In today's world of advertising, where the buzz word is accountability, advertisers should be asking themselves whether their money is well spent. And they should be seeking proof of that all the time. For today, there is a huge emphasis on generating immediate sales, tomorrow.

In the more developed economies, this has affected the role played by the traditional media such as television, the press and posters: their market share is falling. Increasingly, companies have been turning to direct mail and sales promotion. Such activities are far easier to measure.

Gauging the effectiveness of an advertising campaign remains a notoriously imprecise science. It takes more than simply adding up the number of packs sold. The impact of the advertisement must be assessed in total isolation from other factors such as product innovation. Still, a lot depends on what the advertising is trying to achieve. While some campaigns are designed to get people to buy a product, others are created to maintain rather than develop a brand's market position. Sales increases are then not necessarily a relevant measure. Smart marketing is

about orchestrating all elements in one direction.

Under challenging economic conditions however, there becomes a need to justify the value of advertising. Judging purely on creative merit misrepresents a business which is after all, a commercial tool and not a part of the arts. Even if innovation and creativity remain important.

Smart advertisers realise that the real value of creating advertising lies not in its cost but in its added value — the ability to generate greater effect for less money, to be talked about.

So what makes an effective ad? Better targeting and a closer understanding of the consumer is one element. Also, there are now more clever ways to hit the right people at the right time and in the right mood. A campaign that "works" is generally accepted to be one that encourages people to identify with, relate to and connect with the ad. To maintain this connection, it is therefore important for advertising to keep up with an audience's changing hopes and aspirations.

But this also means that what makes an effective ad is always in a state of flux. No sooner will an agency hit on the right approach for a particular audience than a rival will do something different and rewrite the rules.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Jan. 12

7:30 N.B.A.

8:30 Raad To Avonca

Peg Bowen is highly instrumental in getting Felix King out of a school dilemma.

9:10 The Hat Squad

The brothers fight to protect their father when a vengeful explosives expert escapes from prison and seeks to even the score with him.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Turner And Hooch

Starring: Tom Hanks & Craig Nelson

The film is a hilarious comedy which tells the story of fussy, neat police detective, Scott Turner, and his huge, drooling dog, Hooch. Assigned to a brutal murder case, Turner has only one witness to help him solve it, Hooch.

12:00 The Hidden Room

A woman, who works as a model, becomes schizophrenic and loses social ties as she gets caught in a psychological dilemma.

Monday, Jan. 16

7:30 Black Beauty

8:00 Boogies Diner

Chaos prevails as a popular star visits the store.

8:30 Street Hawk

9:10 Shattered L.A.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Louisiana

Virginia, who is a land-owner in Louisiana, gets into a lot of trouble as she comes to bad terms with her husband, Charles.

Tuesday, Jan. 17

7:30 Practical Guide To The Universe

8:00 The Detectives

The police leap in to stop an attempt to smuggle diamonds.

8:30 Quantum Leap

It is 1962 now. Sam appears in the person of a shelter-building engineer who is engaged in preparing against an imminent Cuban missile-attack.

9:10 Equinox

The programme looks at the latest research on memory which is getting closer towards understanding how we remember and recall what we have remembered.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Wild Palms

Harry travels to Japan to strike a deal when he discovers there that he has become a member of an under-cover organisation.

11:10 Flair

Wednesday, Jan. 18

7:30 Home Improvement

8:00 Quantum Leap

It is in Arizona, 1957. Sam assumes the character of the last still-living cowboy who seems to be standing ready for his final duel.

8:30 Lorenzo's Oil

The programme tells the amazing, true story of a fatally ill young boy, Lorenzo Odone, and his parents' incredible battle to save him.

9:10 Law And Order

This episode's court case is about a man who is found dead in the middle of the road and whose wife becomes a suspect.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Snowy River

Matt and Kathleen team up to help a girl find her father she has not seen for twenty years.

11:10 Keeping Up Appearances



Change in social attitude essential for better education

By Rima Cortbawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Being the cornerstone in the foundations of development, education in Jordan has for the past few years acquired a substantial share of attention whether from the media, authorities or educators. However in anticipating major advances to come as a consequence of implementing educational reform, an insight into the complexities involved would be a helpful guideline for a realistic outlook.

"Education is indeed a very complex issue that is individual yet involves many factors," said Victor Billeh, president of the National Centre of Education Research and Development. An attitude that denotes absolute readiness to learn must be encouraged among students. "Certainly efforts from both parents and educators are needed to guide students to the right approach," said Dr. Billeh. So establishing willingness in students to acquire information should be the focus of parents' and educators' concentration, especially if higher education is to be sought.

It is well-known that the

greatest proportion of accelerated progress is guaranteed by the activities of individuals who have deservedly attained higher education, but unfortunately viewing the situation from institutions of higher education does not give a promising picture.

University professors



"On average, only 10-15 per cent of the students in a typical lecture hall at the

university are self-motivated and show enthusiasm about the learning process."

selectivity of students was exercised by universities which only admitted the keenest students into their higher educational programmes, and these students' 'thirst' for knowledge was their mainstay at university," Dr. Bitar said.

So university graduates were truly well-informed in their majors having ac-

quired their degree primarily through hard work and a desire to learn not being compelled by any underlying motives. "However, these days we face the problem of having to educate the willing and the compelled because both have a right to education. That is why employment by classical methods that can only serve the self-

driven minority of students is not sufficient," said Dr. Bitar. Modern teaching techniques that eventually stimulate the most dormant learning tendencies must be sought in educating the least motivated majority of students — who ought to be the target of educators' concern. These modern methods go beyond "teaching lecturing" while students write or copy notes to involve the utilisation of visual aids, modern computer facilities, introduction to real life situations by carrying out appropriate project work, organising discussion groups, executing programmes that aim at applying theoretical knowledge into practical en-

counters and numerous other interactive techniques that stimulate students into thinking and correlating information, according to Dr. Bitar.

"There is definitely a shortage of educators and consequently students who genuinely understand technology. Whereas educators and students in developed countries can feel numbers and apply scientific theories into their every-day existence, the lack of ability to articulate academic concepts and substantiate them by numerical analysis is prevalent amongst developing nations," said Dr. Bitar.

So, although education in Jordan is quite advanced in comparison with developing countries, efforts must be resumed to surpass the standards in the developed world.

"Naturally allocation of funds for education is needed to up-date educational facilities and educate educators to become capable tutors who understand technology. Also a change in society's attitude towards education is necessary," Dr. Bitar said.

Apparently the individualistic approach of society only serves to hinder public development, according to Dr. Bitar. The approach is portrayed

"To our great disadvantage, a successful, skilled and well-educated person often suffers the vibes of antagonistic hostilities coming from envious work-mates instead of enjoying recognition and encouragement. This attitude of meeting success with hostility springs out of the fact that citizens are more involved with their own individual progress, or rather expansion of their individual resources, than the overall public development. Certainly this unrecommendable attitude is contagious and is most often passed on to the new generations," said Dr. Bitar.

Thus, in achieving high standards of education, parents, society and educators, as well as students' attitude all combine to influence the progress of this complicated yet vital aspect of human development.

A man, a boy and the sharing of silence

By Ian Atalla

Special to the Jordan Times

Although the dead cannot speak, they must be able to communicate among themselves in a peculiar sort of internationally standardised sign language. How else does one explain the fact that just this month in Sarajevo, that famous 1990s hotspot of ethnic thugery and international embarrassment, a seven-year-old boy lay down to die — and as he did so, called out in silence to a man he never knew, a middle-aged stranger from a foreign land who met his own end almost a quarter century ago?

The first protagonist, in this parapsychological melodrama was shown in the Dec. 24 edition of this newspaper. The extensive spill of vital fluids from the downward side of his head, cracked open by a well-aimed sniper's bullet, makes it clear that the youngster's final breaths have either already ceased or will do so within a few minutes. So quickly was the hunter able to take down his quarry that the boy never had the chance to physically react — it is as if he had suddenly fallen flat from tripping over his shoelaces.

Since the elapsing of that moment, the fidgety glances and twitches so typical of children his age have fled from his face, leaving behind in their place a peculiarly adult expression of serenity which mocks the two United Nations "blue helmets" who scramble frantically around him, like two panicked kitchen maids arrived too late to put out a cooking fire.

The second protagonist is Wael Zuaiter, a 38-year-old cultural/arts dilettante from Nablus. After spending approximately five years in Rome leading a sort of happy-go-lucky bohemian lifestyle, he turned to political activism — and paid for it with his life on the evening of Oct. 16, 1972.

A photo taken by Roman policemen who stumbled upon the scene of Mr. Zuaiter's demise on that long ago night, shows how he lay on his side in a foetal position — as if he were sleeping in bed, and not sprawled on the pavement of the courtyard of an apartment building. A bag containing a loaf of bread lay dropped on the ground behind him, but he still clung stubbornly with his left hand to a magazine and a bundle of X-ray plates from the clinic of a local doctor.

Friends of Mr. Zuaiter's, alive today, remember him as eloquent in his speech. But in death, it is the Sarajevo boy who is the more powerful witness, with the fawn-like softness of his features which so witheringly damns his anonymous killer.

* * * * *



Wael Zuaiter lies dead in Rome on Oct. 16, 1972



A seven-year-old boy lies dead from sniper fire in Sarajevo

Cultural Centre" in Rome, was a marked contrast to what acquaintances had known before, a man once happy to spend "entire days... chattering with Arab students in a coffee bar," according to one journalist who knew him.

"Always the worst manager of his own affairs, he would spend what little money he had on books, records and tickets to concerts or the opera," the journalist, Pietro Petrucci, writes in *For A Palestinian*. "A few hundred lire was all he needed to buy a sandwich, and he was not ashamed of wearing clothes discarded by his friends."

Although the testimony of one's devoted friends cannot be taken as unbiased evidence, Mr. Petrucci and others who write in *For A Palestinian* unanimously assert that by 1972, five years of Mr. Zuaiter's sustained efforts as a Palestinian activist had paid substantial dividends. Italy's intellectual circles, once staunchly pro-Israeli for the most part, had begun to stir about and question former views once held with certainty.

Partial success gave birth to bolder ambitions: Mr. Zuaiter now dreamed of having a group of Europe's most famous writers and artists jointly sign a declaration of support for the Palestinian cause. There were also hopes that some of Italy's cinematographers might consider making films on the Palestinian people and their predicament.

Then, in the summer of 1972, things unexpectedly took a nasty tone. Ghassan Kanafani, an eminent Palestinian poet, was assassinated in Beirut that July. Kanafani had been cultural director for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The Munich debacle followed in August, and with the media fallout that came on its heels, Europe went chill towards the Palestinians and their cause.

Mr. Zuaiter would not condone the PLO's role in the Munich slaughter, and insisted to friends that he personally considered any such acts to be "sheer madness." Nevertheless, a large number of his Italian contacts in intellectual and political circles, whom he had worked so hard to win over during the previous years, faded away.

He was also intelligent enough to fathom what Kanafani's death might imply for him, and he was scared: "If I remain, they will kill me," he told a friend anxiously.

A few weeks later, as he opened the door of an elevator lift to go up to his apartment, two assailants stepped out from hiding in a broom cabinet behind him and pumped three .22 calibre bullets into his back. In a thoroughly useless attempt to flee, Zuaiter ran out into an adjacent courtyard in the building complex and collapsed. There, he was finished off with another nine bullets.

The Fateh representative in Rome ended his career as he began it — penniless. The bag with the single bread loaf which he carried that night was meant to be his supper, and his telephone had been cut off because he couldn't come up with the money for the bill.

Previously, PLO officials had urged him to let them loan him a pistol, in case he should ever need it for self-defence. He had refused.

In the following few months of 1972 and throughout the next year, or so it appears, Israeli authorities remained determined to exact a painful price for Munich. Five more PLO affiliates in Europe would meet their deaths during that period, either brought down in the same manner as Mr. Zuaiter or blown apart by remote-controlled bombs. The first to follow was Mahmoud Hamshari, Fateh's representative in France, who had himself attended Mr. Zuaiter's funeral wake in Rome only seven weeks earlier. The next four followed in gradual succession — Hussein Bashir, Basil Kubaisi, Mohammad Boudin and Amed Bouchiki.

Moments would remain behind for some of Mr. Zuaiter's associates in Italy. Mr. Petrucci remembered how a short vacation spent together in a seaside villa turned into a journey of memory, of childhood summers spent on the seacoast of another land, 30 years before.

"I still have in my ears," Mr. Zuaiter once told another friend, "the rhythm of the water pumps irrigating, day and night, the orange-groves of Jaffa." Journalist Ennio Polito remembers how once, in the tense atmosphere of a raucous public hall meeting, Mr. Zuaiter stood up from the back of the audience to give those assembled his version of the events which had brought about the very first war in Palestine, in 1948.

"How do you know these things?" a sceptic asked him testily.

"I know them," he answered, "because I am a Palestinian."

* * * * *

And now, 22 years later, there is this Sarajevo boy. He comes from another continent and is 53 years Mr. Zuaiter's junior. As he lies dying, his shrill voice pipes out in angry protest.

How could you claim that you knew simply because you were a Palestinian, as if that word should make you something special?, asks Mr. Zuaiter indignantly. Look at what they've done to me, and what if you'd been a Turk, or a Chinaman, or an Eskimo for that matter? What would you have told them then?

Mr. Zuaiter hears the boy's call, and from across time, he answers back — to tell the boy that he is not alone, and should not be afraid, for others before him have faced what he is facing now.

It is a very private dialogue between the two of them. We may stay on to observe it if we like, but we are not invited to participate.

And suddenly, in this moment, the embarrassing realisation hits us — that we have mangled this world so much, we are now incapable of fixing it.

For A Palestinian: A Memorial To Wael Zuaiter

Edited by Janet Venn-Brown
Routledge and Kegan Paul PLC
14 Leicester Square, London, U.K.

Steve Martin plays second string — or does he?

By Andrea Orr
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — From wild and crazy stand-up comedy to absurd physical stunts and sentimentally funny films, it would seem Steve Martin has run the whole gamut of comedy roles.

But when he talks about his new movie, Martin assumes a role more unusual for him, the side-kick.

Martin was at a Beverly Hills hotel recently with the other stars of *Mixed Nuts*, the offbeat new Christmas comedy about a suicide prevention hotline.

In the Hollywood "junket" formula, actors are supposed to sit down.

one at a time, with a few reporters, but Martin made his appearance with director and co-writer Nora Ephron, so that he could get away making just an occasional witty remark while she handled the serious business.

First Ephron expounds on the problems making human contact in a high-tech age, which she says was the film's motif. "If you know the person you'd like to reach, press the first three letters of the name, using zero for the letter 'Q' and the pound key for the letter 'Z,'" she says, mimicking a recorded telephone greeting.

"Isn't it better to get that than to get 'hi, this is

Suzi, thank you for calling the Four Seasons (Hotel), how may I direct your call. Merry Christmas,'" Martin says with a smirk. "I'm exhausted by the time I hear that."

"One of the great things that was a thrill for all of us was catching Steve and Madeline (co-star Madeline Kahn) work together," Ephron says, trying to put the discussion back on serious ground.

"You said you wouldn't tell anybody about that," jokes Martin.

Subtle wit does not seem to come naturally to this man, who has stood straight-faced before audiences with an arrow through his head, and

redefined himself. He started out as a TV comedy writer for *The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour*. A job he took after toying with the idea of becoming a philosophy professor.

Then in his mid-20s he hit the road with an act that caused more established comedians to take notice. Working against the conventional wisdom that comedy acts had to contain jokes and punchlines, Martin went for the inane. He even got audiences to laugh at inherently dry material like his reading a list of names out of a telephone book.

Martin made his film debut in 1979 in *The Jerk*. A screenplay he co-wrote about a white child in a

family of poor black sharecroppers. A series of movies getting mixed reviews followed, including box office hits *Roxanne* and *L.A. Story*, which he starred in and wrote.

His return to film this year comes after a two-year break he took to write his first stage play, *Picasso At The Lapin Agile*. A comedy set in Paris at the start of the century, the play was presented by Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre last year, and is now in Los Angeles.

So why, after all this, did Martin want the barely leading role in a film even the director concedes is probably too Screwball to attract more than a niche audience?

"I wanted to do a perennial. Now I have a Christmas and a Thanksgiving movie. Next I'll do one for Lincoln's birthday."

But seriously. "Sometimes you read a script and all the characters are the same, they all have the same voice. As an actor, to walk into a room with five or six very distinctive characters, it makes your performance come alive."

In *Mixed Nuts*, Martin shares credits with Madeline Kahn, Juliette Lewis, Rob Reiner, Adam Sandler, Rita Wilson, and Gary Shandling, who comprise the neurotic staff members at the suicide hotline office, and their nutty neighbours in

Venice Beach, California.

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Arabs seen reviving common market

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) — Peace with Israel and the emergence of more world trade blocs will likely prompt Arab states to revive a common market they created three decades ago but which soon collapsed amid political rifts, officials and experts said Wednesday.

The existing differences have thwarted repeated attempts to recreate such a market and blocked the implementation of other bilateral and joint economic agreements.

"I am optimistic this time about domestic developments and a merger of the Arab economies," said Muafid Shehab, chairing a major conference on Arab economies in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"Now that the Arab-Israeli conflict is nearing an end, Arab political will and thinking will be directed towards that goal because the measures and resources ear-

marked for that conflict will be diverted to development," he told AFP at the conference on ways for Arabs to meet the challenge of world blocs.

More than 400 officials and experts from the Arab World and other countries and organisations debated a long-term Arab economic strategy at the three-day conference sponsored by the 22-member Arab League.

It was expected to issue recommendations late Wednesday defining the guidelines for the new strategy, covering a regional economic alliance and ways to deal with the European Union (EU) and other blocs.

Arab nations agreed to a common market in 1964 but the project was shortlived due to political differences, unrest and severe economic problems in some member states, experts said.

Later they signed economic cooperation accords on a

bilateral and collective basis to ease trade but such pacts have not become a reality.

As a result, trade among the 22 members has not exceeded 10 per cent of their total trade of more than \$200 billion a year.

Experts also blamed the existence of high customs tariffs despite a 1982 pact stipulating the removal of such duties.

An Arab economic merger will give rise to a major consumer market in a region with around 240 million inhabitants and Gross Domestic Product of more than \$470 billion in 1993, according to official figures.

"Past failures are due to the absence of political will and the presence of rifts among Arabs," said Mr. Shehab, rector of Cairo University and chairman of the Egyptian parliament's foreign relations committee.

"But I think now Arabs

will recover awareness with the establishment of peace in the region and the emergence of new giant world blocs. I believe that the lessons of the past 40 years will also be a strong motivation," he added.

Mr. Shehab, who was chief Egyptian negotiator with Israel over the Red Sea resort of Tabar in the mid-1980s, said Arabs should prepare for an economic relationship with the Jewish state.

"Regarding Israel, the state of war will change into a state of peace when it withdraws from all the occupied Arab lands. This means a normalisation of ties with it, politically and economically... Peace with Israel will bring new challenges that are no less serious than the challenges of war," he pointed out.

Mr. Shehab said there was no justification for Arab fears that economic links with

Israel could allow the Jewish state to control their economies, due to its superior technology.

"Normalisation with Israel does not mean the end of the Arab entity or identity. So there is no reason for such fears," he said.

More than 20 studies were presented at the conference, covering development in the Arab World, oil and petrochemicals, the experience of the EU and other groupings between Arabs and such trading blocs.

Former Egyptian prime minister Ali Lutfi said the GATT deal signed by more than 120 countries in Morocco last year should prompt Arabs to get together.

"I have a feeling Arabs will be earnest in fresh attempts this time to create an economic alliance. They realise that they could remain on the sidelines in this age of giant groups," he said.

Record fall of Italian lira alarms markets, press

MILAN, Italy (AFP) — Dealers on financial markets and commentators in the press expressed alarm Wednesday about the weakness of the lira which reached new depths during trading in the morning.

The lira touched a record low point of 1,062 here, rallying to 1,060.5 but a dealer at one leading international bank commented: "If the lira falls past 1,062 it will then fall straight to 1,065."

He said that the collapse of the lira was the result of political crisis in Italy but "also, during the last two days, of the fall of the dollar against the mark."

The dollar has been undermined by a financial crisis in Mexico where the peso has shed 30 per cent of its value.

At stock brokers Murchio Sim, Michael Luribino said that the lira might fall to 1,075 lire to the mark in the next two, three or four days if political uncertainty persisted.

He also noted that the fall of the lira was not an isolated event.

"Throughout the world fund managers tend to dispose of weak currencies in favour of more stable ones," he said in a reference to the troubled peseta, Swedish krona and Belgian franc.

Other experts said that the lira might continue to plunge as far as 1,100 to the mark in the near future if Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro was unable to bring together a lasting government capable of dealing with the Italian public deficit.

If the new government were unable to win the confidence of parliament and it became inevitable that an early election would be held, the lira would fall and fall, dealers said.

The II Giorno newspaper in Rome carried a headline reading "The lira without

U.S. Senate panel confirms Rubin for treasury post

WASHINGTON (R) — Treasury Secretary nominee Robert Rubin won swift confirmation from the Senate Finance Committee Tuesday only minutes after the panel's members had begun to question the former Wall Street executive.

At the urging of the panel's chairman, Senator Bob Packwood, an Oregon Republican, Mr. Rubin was confirmed in a unanimous voice vote by the committee after members of both parties praised him strongly.

"The president has chosen wisely," said Senator Alfonso D'Amato, a New York Republican who introduced Mr. Rubin to the panel. Mr. Rubin is expected to win approval from the full Senate.

Mr. Rubin, 56, who has spent the last two years as head of President Bill Clinton's National Economic Council, will continue to field questions from lawmakers as part of his confirmation hearing before the finance committee.

He was tapped by Mr. Clinton after former Treasury

secretary Lloyd Bentsen announced last month his plans to retire.

In his opening statement, Mr. Rubin offered to work with the new Republican-controlled Congress in shaping economic policy. But he set out clear markers on what he thought that should entail.

In prepared testimony, Mr. Rubin defended the administration's economic record in its first two years in office but acknowledged that more needs to be done.

"Much remains to be done at this critical juncture if our country is to prosper," he said. "It is crucial that the administration and Congress work together effectively."

He sounded a conciliatory note to Republicans. "I am pragmatic, and I believe that differences can usually be resolved, not always but usually," he said.

"I also believe that there are no easy answers to the significant issues of economic policy and that difficult trade-offs are almost always involved," he added.

Mr. Rubin suggested four principles to guide economic

policy: Maintaining fiscal discipline, promoting productivity, supporting international cooperation and modernising financial markets.

"Tax cuts or spending programmes must be paid for, and we must sustain our efforts to continue reducing the deficit," Mr. Rubin said.

But he also backed a reordering of the budget to emphasise education, training and what he called other "essential" public investments.

Like Mr. Bentsen, Mr. Rubin is a moderate Democrat with strong ties to the business community. He is not expected to chart radical new policy directions as treasury chief.

Mr. Rubin echoed Mr. Bentsen's call for changes in the way banks are regulated and hinted that he would press efforts to trim the number of regulators.

"We can make American financial markets more competitive and more efficient through modernising regulatory structure and regulations," he told lawmakers.

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treasury
Mexico
Clinton Wednesday
king closely with the
financial woes. "We
stability in Mexico,"
"It is in America's
Mexican stocks fell in a
little, stepped in and
the freefall. and
Medillo and conveyed

**Business
Daily
Dear**
A review
of economic news
from the Arabic press

Cable car to link Ma'in with Dead Sea

★★ Jordan Investment Corporation (JIC) Director General Mohammad Batayneh expects the JIC to have made a JD15 million profit last year, about the same amount posted in 1993.

He said JIC's main investment for this year would be a cable car project between Hammamat Ma'in and the Dead Sea. The project would cost about JD8 million in which the JIC would have a 10 to 20 per cent stake. Mr. Batayneh said the rest of the equity would be left to the private sector, noting that the interest shown by foreign companies in the project was very encouraging. Mr. Batayneh said the feasibility study for the project indicated there would be a good return on the investment, especially with relatively low and competitive prices. The JIC will set up a company for this purpose and will be announcing the details of the firm this month, Mr. Batayneh said, adding that the scheme will be under implementation towards the end of this year (Al Dustour).

★★ Petra was visited by 161,234 people last year. The highest number of monthly visitors was 23,029 during the month of April. The number of visitors was 18,154 and 18,047 during October and November respectively (Al Ra'i).

★★ Produce exports during December 1994 amounted to 17,320 tonnes, worth about JD 5.5 million. Lebanon bought the highest volume (26.7 per cent), followed by Saudi Arabia (23.9 per cent), and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain at 19.9 per cent and 19.1 per cent respectively.

★★ The new price for a pack of Cartier, Dunhill International or Rothmans Royal imported by the Ministry of Supply is JD 1.500. The ministry also fixed the price of Lucky tuna at 265 fils a can (Al Ra'i).

★★ The Cities and Villages Development Bank last year extended 116 loans, amounting to JD 7.6 million compared to 172 loans in 1993, amounting to JD 7.5 million. The loans benefited 80 municipal councils and 38 rural councils; 47 per cent of loans went for opening and asphaltating roads, 24 per cent were to reschedule overdue loans and nine per cent for productive projects (Al Ra'i).

★★ Under an agreement signed at the Civil Aviation Authority, Royal Jordanian will be flying from Amman to Kansai airport in Osaka, Japan, via Delhi. Flights are expected before mid-1995 (Al Ra'i).

★★ The society of moneychangers is demanding a reduction in licensing fees and in annual fees, which amount to JD 15,000 and 14,000 respectively. Other demands which were presented to the Central Bank were: (1) Easing of administrative restrictions by providing monthly rather than daily statistical reports; (2) freezing the purchase of foreign currencies from banks without having to get a prior approval from the Central Bank; (3) allowing moneychangers to deal directly with the Central Bank in buying and selling foreign currencies; (4) facilitating export and import of foreign currencies and precious metals; (5) permitting a clearing process between outgoing foreign currencies against incoming foreign currencies without the need for incoming transfers against the outgoing foreign currencies and (6) permitting having intermediate (temporary) accounts to facilitate dealings and ensure a better control between the moneychangers and their clients outside the country (Sawt Al Shaab).

Reduction of car customs did not benefit ordinary people

By Samaa Abu Sharar
to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The reduction in customs duty on cars which went into effect on Nov. 13, 1994 has sown confusion and misconception of the move among people. More importantly, it did not lower the price of cars to meet average people's expectations and budgets as the government has intended it, car dealers say.

On the other hand, affluent people who wanted to buy a car for JD250,000 and it came down to JD230,000 will buy the vehicle anyway since the reduction is a minor issue that practically does not hurt their original budget, says Moussa Kakish, assistant general manager of the Arab East Auto Company.

The custom duty reduction seems to have served the wealthy people more than ordinary people, he said.

The majority of car dealers contacted by the Jordan Times agreed on three main and essential points which confused people.

Ordinary people who were expecting to buy a car that costs JD20,000 for JD11,000,

were disappointed since according to the new law it only came down to JD17,000; thus it stays beyond their budget.

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panies.

Thirdly, many are still anticipating a new reduction in customs duties on cars after rumours have spread indicating such a move. But Nadhim Abdullah, head of the Customs Department, has denied that any further reduction is

The Autocars and Spare Parts Association recently submitted a demand to the Ministry of Finance to reconsider its decision of not including new cars in the 10 per cent reduction if the model of the car becomes one year out-moded.

Mr. Ayoubi hopes that the response of the Ministry of Finance will be positive since this will come to benefit both the customer and car com-

panies over the last few months, but hope that it will improve since the suspense is over after the customs duty reduction.

A review of the number of most popular cars on Jordanian streets:

Mercedes 31,663

Toyota 16,835

Opel 9,988

Lada 7,330

Datsun 7,242

Honda 6,873

Mitsubishi 6,507

Volkswagen 4,483

Mazda 4,308

Nissan 3,523

BMW 3,464

Peugeot 3,015

Renault 2,796

Chevrolet 2,289

Dodge 2,207

Fiat 2,093

Volvo 1,921

Hyundai 1,910

Daihatsu 1,787

Daewoo 1,738

Subaru 1,309

Among the least popular passenger cars in Amman:

Jaguar 90

Porsche 64

Rolls Royce 14

Ferrari 6

Others= 11,128

Total= 136,778

Despite the difference of opinions among car dealers, they do all agree that the car sales has been difficult for all

Car: Model CC: Old price New price
Lada 2105 1500 JD6,500 JD5,500
Fiat Sahrin 1600 JD10,750 JD8,800
Renault Clio 1600 JD12,000 JD9,850
Toyota Tercel 1300 JD12,250 JD12,900
Suzuki Swift 1300 JD23,000 JD19,700
Honda Civic 1300 JD14,650 JD11,300
Mitsubishi Colt 1300 JD13,750 JD11,500
Opel Corsa 1200 JD16,000 JD13,500
Peugeot 306XR 1360 JD5,200 JD3,900

BEIRUT (R) — Bahrain-based Gulf International Bank (GIB) will open a representative office in Beirut soon to study investment opportunities, including the possibility of opening a commercial branch, the bank's general manager said Wednesday. The bank's general manager Ghazi Abdul Jawad, a member of a visiting team of Bahraini financial officials, said the office was set to open within a month at some point it could be upgraded to a branch of Gulf International in Lebanon. Mr. Abdul Jawad told Reuters the office "will study and identify investment opportunities, cement existing ties or set up new links with Lebanese banks and also take part in financing development projects in Lebanon." If Gulf International, owned by the governments of the six-state Gulf Cooperation Council, were to open a branch in Beirut, it would be the first from the Gulf region to do so, Mr. Abdul Jawad said.

Gulf International Bank to open office in Beirut

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FRENCH CUISINE<br

Cole signs for Manchester United in record-breaking deal

Sale brings frenzy of transfer speculation

LONDON (R) — Dennis Bergkamp, Matthew Le Tissier, Stan Collymore, Chris Armstrong, Les Ferdinand or Nick Barmby could be heading for Newcastle — if Wednesday's British newspapers are to be believed.

The British record transfer of Andy Cole from Newcastle to Manchester United Tuesday sent the papers into a frenzy of speculation as to how Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan will spend the 6.0 million pounds (\$9.38 million) cash settlement he received for the striker.

The total cost of the transfer is estimated at 7.0 million pounds (\$10.94 million) with teenager Keith Gillespie, who has moved from Manchester to Newcastle as part of the deal, valued at 1.0 million pounds (\$1.56 million).

"The sky is the limit," say the Daily Mail, who claim Inter Milan's Dutch international star Bergkamp tops Keegan's wanted list.

Bergkamp would like to play in England and Newcastle chairman Sir John Hall has been keen on him for a while. The snag up to now has been Bergkamp's wages, not the Mail.

The Express, however, claims: "Kevin Keegan will make an audacious move for Matt Le Tissier to cool Newcastle fans' anger over yesterday's sale."

"Despite denials from Southampton, the 5.0 million pounds (\$7.81 million) sale of their cult hero Le Tissier is an option Newcastle will hastily pursue."

The Daily Mirror says Keegan has no less than six targets — Crystal Palace's Armstrong, Queens Park Rangers' Ferdinand, Tottenham's Barmby, Dean Holdsworth of Wimbledon, Le Tissier and Nottingham Forest man Collymore, a Manchester United target before their swoop for Cole.

Meanwhile the Sun believes that having brought Cole to Old Trafford, Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson will now recoup some funds by selling striker Mark Hughes

to Everton for 2.5 million pounds (\$3.91 million).

Most papers speculate on Cole's new wage package, with the Mirror claiming it will work out at 24,100 pounds (\$37,660) a week — comfortably the highest in British soccer — with a basic 12,000 pounds (\$18,750), rising to 14,000 pounds (\$21,880), a 750,000 pounds (\$1.17 million) signing-on bonus, a 600,000 pounds (\$937,600) cut of the fee because he didn't ask for a transfer and 2.0 million pounds (\$3.13 million) in personal endorsements and sponsorship deals.

"In addition," the paper says, "Cole will collect club bonuses for European, Title and Cup successes."

There is also plenty of comment on the move — and warnings for Ferguson should his purchase fail to live up to expectations.

When Ferguson dusts his reputation yesterday, be not only took football by storm but also unleashed upon Old Trafford the player who has failed to fulfil himself at three clubs. He must do so at his fourth," writes the Mail.

Writing in the Express, former Leeds star John Giles compares the purchase of Cole to that of Eric Cantona but warns: "Cole may not fit so snugly into the Old Trafford set-up."

"Whenever I have seen Cole I have admired his talent and exceptional goalscoring ability. But I have also disliked a moodiness, an attitude problem. His body language towards teammates left a lot to be desired."

Former Liverpool favourite and now BBC TV pundit Alan Hansen, writing in Today, predicts: "Alex Ferguson may have blown more than a massive hole in Manchester United's bank balance."

"It could be he has also blown the club's chance of winning their third successive championship."

"No matter how good Cole is, he'll take time to settle. And, just as importantly, Old Trafford's established stars will take time to understand what his game's all about."

"It could all be just too much for them in what is left of this season."

Osaka bids for 2008 Olympics

OSAKA (AFP) — Osaka wants to host the 29th Summer Olympic Games in 2008. Japan's second largest city would be competing against Beijing and Cape Town.

Mayor Masaya Nishio said Wednesday: "We believe there's no obstacle as it'll be 44 years after the Tokyo Olympics in 1964."

The main stadium and other facilities would be built on the man-made islands under construction in Osaka bay, a 30-minute hydrofoil ride from Kansai International Airport.

Nishio said Beijing and Cape Town were their major rivals.

Blair, Koss, Morceli finalists for '95 Jesse Owens Award

NEW YORK (R) — American speed skater Bonnie Blair, Norwegian speed skater Johan Olav Koss and Algerian long distance runner Noureddine Morceli are the finalists for the 1855 Jesse Owens international trophy award, the award's founder, Herb Douglas, announced Tuesday.

Morceli overcame a case of flu in Paris last September to claim the men's overall title for the Grand Prix athletics season.

Morceli last year also added the 3,000 metres world record to the marks he holds at 1,500 metres and the

career Olympic gold medal, more than any female American Olympian.

Koss, who is also known for his humanitarian work, was a triple gold medal winner in Lillehammer. He became a national hero and international star by winning the 1,500, 5,000 and 10,000 metre events, all in world record time.

Blair became the first American to win the same event in three consecutive Winter Olympics when she successfully defended her 500 metres title at the Lillehammer Games last year. Blair's victory in the 1,000 metres gave her a fifth

career Olympic gold medal, more than any female American Olympian.

Koss and Blair were already named co-winners of Sports Illustrated's Sportsman of the Year Award.

The Jesse Owens award, founded in 1980, is presented annually to the athlete who best personifies excellence in athletic performance and promotes sincere cooperation and understanding among people of all nations."

The winner, selected by an international panel of electors, will be announced on January 17. The award will be presented on February 7 in New York.

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Jordan Soccer League

Ahli face Wihdat, Arabi take on Hussein

By Aleen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Ramtha will be aiming for a win when they play Al Qadsieh Thursday while hoping that Al Ahli will stage an upset over leaders Al Wihdat Friday in the 20th week of the First Division Soccer Championship.

With only 18 matches left in the Kingdom's most prestigious soccer competition, the remaining matches are of utmost importance to all teams as they struggle for the crown at the top of the standings while another battle continues at the other end of the relegation-threatened last four.

Al Hussein, who are third behind Al Wihdat and Al Ramtha, will be praying that their top rivals stumble while they meet eighth-placed Al Arabi in another match.

Al Jazireh and Kufrsoum, both of whom have managed to maintain a halfway standing will clash in another interesting clash.

In other matches, title-holders Al Faisali meet last-placed Al Jeel, while Al Karmel play their lowly counterpart Shahab Al Hussein.

During the 19th week all teams demonstrated that they sense the seriousness of the standings and the results.

* Al Wihdat's 1-0 win over Al Hussein was an important step towards the

crown which the team last won in 1991.

Veteran striker Ibrahim Sa'diyyeh, a crowd favourite, netted his team's winning goal in the 40th minute.

Al Qadsieh's fans were upset when star striker Aref Hussein and Mohammad Shweihat both lost definite chances to equalise.

Al Hussein thus remained third with 28 points and will face Al Arabi, Al Jazireh and Al Faisali in their remaining matches.

* Kufrsoum's win over

Schedule of 20th week:

Thursday 12/1
Qadsieh/Ramtha 2:30 p.m. Amman Stadium.

Friday 13/1
Arabi/Hussein 2:30 p.m. Hassan Stadium

Wihdat/Ahli 2:30 p.m. Amman Stadium

Shahab Al Hussein/Karmel 2:30 p.m. Petra Stadium

Saturday 14/1
Jeel/Faisali 2:30 p.m. Amman Stadium

Standings before 20th week

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Wihdat	19	13	6	—	25	3	32
Ramtha	19	13	5	1	41	11	31
Hussein	19	13	2	4	46	20	28
Faisali	19	10	7	2	33	9	27
Jazireh	19	9	5	5	26	18	23
Kufrsoum	19	9	2	8	28	28	20
Ahli	19	7	5	7	25	19	19
Arabi	19	6	5	8	23	28	17
Qadsieh	19	5	8	6	22	24	16
Shahab Al Hussein*	19	1	4	14	17	41	6
Karmel*	19	1	4	14	12	48	6
Jeel*	19	1	1	17	11	52	3

* Dropped to 2nd division

SPORTS IN BRIEF

NBA's Bullard signs with Greek club PAOK

ATHENS (R) — Former Houston Rockets power forward Matthew Bullard signed a five-month contract with Greek basketball club PAOK Salonica, club officials said Wednesday. Bullard replaces his countryman Gérard Moustafé who will probably miss the rest of the season, including PAOK's European Club's Cup semifinal series matches, due to a leg injury. Details of Bullard's contract were not announced. He told reporters on arriving in Greece that he was looking forward to playing for PAOK and although tired from his trip he was ready to start training immediately.

Spurs struggle to keep Barmby

LONDON (R) — Tottenham manager Garry Francis will fight to keep striker Nick Barmby even though he has known for some time that the England Under-21 star wants to move back closer to his family in the North of England. Francis, who has even offered Barmby a new contract, said here on Tuesday: "This is nothing to do with him being unhappy at Spurs. It is purely a domestic situation and I am doing all I can to keep him here because he is such a valuable player. Manchester United and Liverpool were among a group of top clubs who wanted to sign Barmby as a teenager and if Spurs lose their battle to keep him, he would be sure to bring in excess of three million pounds on the transfer market.

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Balladur faces court date

PARIS (R) — Jean Nouvel, France's most famous architect, is taking the government of Edouard Balladur to court over the rejection of his design for the stadium to host the World Cup final in 1998. The architect's lawyer, Michel Huet, said Tuesday: "My client has been treated shabbily. If we can't get justice in France, we will go all the way to the European court." Nouvel designed an 80,000-seater stadium costing 2.1 billion francs (\$396 million) which was approved by 10 votes to four for its only rival during an open competition by a jury of experts in July. Since then, the government have backed down saying that Balladur's decision was only a "preliminary step," although the rival bid put forward by a team of four Paris architects has gone ahead with an application for planning permission.

Celtic sign giant Dutch striker

GLASGOW (R) — Celtic signed giant striker Pierre Van Hooydonk from Dutch club Nac Breda Tuesday. The 1.95 metres (six foot five inch) Dutchman, who has scored 114 goals in 182 games in Holland, has agreed a 3 1/2-year contract with Celtic. Celtic manager Tommy Burns said: "I'm delighted to sign a player of Pierre's undoubted ability. His record of 25 goals in 31 matches in the top Dutch League last season speaks for itself."

Honda plans \$380m track

TOKYO (R) — Honda Motor Co. Ltd. will start building a new 38 billion yen (\$380 million) motor sports track 100 km north of Tokyo this month. Called "Twin Ring Motegi," the 640 hectare motor sports and recreation park in the town of Motegi in Tochigi prefecture will open in the Spring of 1997. It will have a 4.85-km road course meeting international racing standards and a 2.4-km (1.5-mile) super speedway oval course. Honda said it will be the first track in the world with separate road and oval courses on the same site.

Thai cabinet decides on Asian Games sites

BANGKOK (R) — The Thai Cabinet has finally come up with a decision on sites for the 1998 Asian Games after long delays which had prompted the Olympic Council of Asia to threaten to move the event. "We cannot afford any more delay or else the project will not be completed in time," Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai said after his cabinet decided to spread the facilities over three widely-separated sites on the outskirts of Bangkok. The OCA last year expressed dismay at the delays and warned it might ask another country to take over the 1998 event.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran attacks Philippines over fracas

MANILA (R) — Iran attacked the Philippines on Wednesday for the way seven Iranian men and a woman were refused admission amid scuffles last week. An embassy statement said its diplomats were denied access to the Iranians who were detained as they arrived at Manila's international airport last Thursday allegedly carrying false documents. They were put on a flight to Singapore the next day following scuffles with photographers and television cameramen allowed by immigration officials to witness the event. The Iranian embassy statement attacked local newspapers for linking the Iranians to a security alert for people who might try to enter the country to disrupt or threaten the visit of Pope John Paul II, which begins on Thursday. The statement accused the media of "poisonous propaganda against certain nations or followers of Islam, a Godly religion which renders the highest respect to Jesus Christ."

3 Kurds charged over attacks in Germany

BONN (R) — German prosecutors said on Tuesday they had charged three leaders of the banned Kurdish separatist group PKK with helping to organise three waves of protests and attacks on Turkish premises in 1993 and 1994. On June 24 and Nov. 4, 1993, Kurds attacked embassies and laid waste Turkish travel agencies and banks with firebombs, sledgehammers and axes. In Munich they took hostage Turkish consulate employees and threatened to kill them. One Turk died in an arson attack on a restaurant in Wiesbaden. Germany banned PKK — the Kurdish Workers Party — in reaction to the series of attacks. The federal prosecutor's office said two suspects, identified only as Senol G. and Dogan O., had helped organise the violence as regional heads of the PKK in the Wiesbaden and Frankfurt areas.

Militants kill trader, son in south Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Islamic militants wearing masks shot and killed a trader and his eight-year-old son Wednesday near the troubled southern Egyptian town of Mallawi, Egyptian police said. Hassan Fathi Saleh, 35, was in his falafel sandwich shop with his son in the village of Manshaat Al Maghalqa when masked gunmen opened fire and then fled. The trader's 12-year-old daughter saw the attack and said there were "three or four" gunmen, police reported. Police launched a manhunt in and around the village. No motives were given for the attack, but militants have previously gunned down civilians whom they accuse of collaboration with the security forces.

Turkey protests at Israeli treatment of workers

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Ankara officially protested Wednesday to the foreign ministry at the treatment of Turks working in Israel, Ambassador Onur Gokce said. The envoy said he went to the foreign ministry to ask Israel to ensure that employers respected the conditions laid out in contracts under which the workers are recruited. Israel Radio reported that he had warned that failure to do so could harm relations between the two countries. Labour ministry spokesman Hanan Rubin agreed with Turkey and accused Israeli employers of "exploitation." Turkey is right to complain, "he told AFP. "It is the employers who are responsible for the conditions of the workers they bring into Israel." Foreign ministry deputy director-general Eytan Ben Tzur added: "Those in Israel who want to get rich unscrupulously harm our image abroad." The labour ministry issued 50,000 permits to workers from Turkey, Romania, Brazil, Portugal and Thailand. The foreigners are used mainly to replace cheap Palestinian labour considered a high security risk. Foreign workers earn a monthly average of \$500, half of which is taken to pay rent and food. The minimum wage in Israel is \$340.

Algerian singer jailed for drunk driving

CRETEIL, France (AFP) — Algerian singer Khaled was jailed for 15 days and banned from driving for two years on Wednesday for drunk driving, judicial officials said. Khaled, a popular entertainer in France, was also fined 10,000 francs (\$1,900) after failing a breath test last October. The 34-year-old singer received a two-month suspended sentence for a similar offence in 1993.

German journalist killed in Chechenya

MOSCOW (R) — A German correspondent for the German news magazine Stern has been killed in Russia's breakaway region of Chechenya. Stern's Moscow office said on Wednesday. Stern said Joachim Piest, 30, died after being hit by a stray bullet in a village about 20 kilometres outside the Chechen capital Grozny. Piest was the third journalist killed in Chechenya since Russia sent tanks and troops there a month ago to crush the north Caucasus region's independence bid. Interfax news agency quoted Defence Ministry officials as saying a Russian reporter had been wounded when a Chechen fighter opened fire on journalists taking photographs of crashed railway freight cars in Grozny station.

Iran satellite ban hits snag

TEHRAN (AFP) — A move to ban satellite dishes has hit a snag as the Iranian parliament has been asked to review the measure because of its cost to the government, the official Iranian news agency IRNA said. A special supervisory council argued parts of the ban were unconstitutional for making the government incur "unnecessary expenses" and asked parliament to review the law it approved last week, IRNA said. The Council of Guardians, which seeks to ensure laws conform to Islamic principles and the constitution, faulted a clause empowering the police and the volunteer Islamic militia to "remove the dishes and associated equipment" if owners fail to dismantle them. It also faulted another clause requiring the ministries of interior and intelligence to coordinate and stop the flow of satellite equipment into the country and confront distributors. And it rejected part of a third clause allowing the state radio and television organisation to collect all fines from violators. The money should be deposited in the public treasury, it said.

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Algerian parties outline proposal

ROME (R) — Three years after Algeria plunged into a vortex of violence, the country's main opposition groups on Wednesday outlined the first steps of a joint proposal to end the crisis.

Abdul Nour Ali Yahya, spokesman for the groups gathered in Rome, said civil strife could end only after the army-backed government softened its security activities and allowed leaders of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) to meet.

"We have a major security problem and a key political force whose leaders cannot meet each other. This must be resolved before we can call a truce or hold elections," Mr. Ali Yahya said.

Mr. Ali Yahya, president of Algeria's Human Rights League, was referring to FIS leaders detained in Algeria or in exile.

The groups, including the FIS, said on Tuesday they had agreed on a draft peace proposal to end the conflict at talks hosted by the San'egio Community, an influential Roman Catholic peace group.

Algeria's government boycotted similar talks last November and has branded the latest round, which began on Sunday, as interference in the country's internal affairs.

Mr. Ali Yahya said that after a truce was established, the proposal called for a broad-based transitional government containing opposition and government forces to lead the country to democratic elections.

"At the same time, an independent commission would be set up to investigate the killings," Mr. Ali Yahya told a news conference.

He said the text of the proposal would be made public on Friday, later than first announced. This was to allow representatives of two opposition groups who have only just joined the talks to contribute to the document, he said.

Three years ago on Wednesday former President Chadli Benjedid was ousted and the army scrapped a general election which the FIS had been poised to win (see page 2).

Mr. Ali Yahya blamed the bloodshed on the army action in 1992.

"The armed struggle was a reaction to a coup which stripped the people of their sovereignty and brought torture, detention camps, special tribunals and the dissolution of a party, the FIS," he said.

"We have no parliament, administrative powers or judiciary, but simply a confusion of roles within the state that can only go by one name — dictatorship," he said.

Meanwhile, 11 people were killed and six wounded in an attack on a bus carrying civilians in eastern Algeria, security officials said.

The officials did not identify the attackers nor give any additional details of the incident, which occurred Tuesday near the city of Batna, 430 kilometres southeast of Algiers.



KING VISITS GHQ: His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday visits the Armed Forces General Headquarters where he was received by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Miral, the chief of staff of the land

forces, several assistants of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the inspector general. King Hussein had a meeting with Gen. Miral and discussed with him issues of concern to the Armed Forces (Armed Forces photo).

2 Jordanian Chechen students held in Russia

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two Jordanian students of Chechen origin have been arrested by Russian authorities and are being held in Moscow, leaders of the Jordanian Chechen community in Jordan said Wednesday.

Information is as yet

sketchy, but pictures of the two under arrest were shown recently on Israeli Television, said Toujan Faisal, spokesperson of the Jordanian Committee for the Support of the Caucasus Republic of Chechenya (JCSCP).

The footage was seen

by their families, Ms. Faisal said in a tele-

phone interview.

The two students are apparently charged with carrying weapons, she said.

"We doubt that they were carrying weapons and feel their arrest is a warning to or a vendetta against the Chechen Community in Jordan because of its continued high level of activity," Ms. Faisal said.

The deputy said she did not know when and where the two were arrested.

The chairman of the JCSCP and former minister of public works, Said Beano, told the Jordan Times that the two students had been studying in Chechenya and wanted to return to Jordan via Russia.

either Jordanian or hold dual Jordanian/Chechen nationality.

Some are without passports, Ms. Faisal said, which were apparently lost or burnt during the Russian bombing and shelling of Chechenya.

"Today (Wednesday) I raised the issue in Parliament and have asked that they (those without passports) be issued with permits or new passports to travel to Jordan," Ms. Faisal added.

Mr. Beano said that those held up in Dagestan had intended to travel aboard a weekly flight from Dagestan to Aleppo, Syria, and then continue to Jordan.

Iran blames U.S. for Tehran-Gulf Arab rift

KUWAIT (R) — The United States is trying to stir up difficulties in Tehran's relations with other Gulf states by suggesting the Islamic republic wants to develop nuclear weapons, a senior Iranian official said on Wednesday.

"All of that is American allegations to serve American interests... Iran has never been a source of threat to the countries of the region," Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Hashemi, on a visit to Kuwait, told a news conference.

"We don't have weapons of this type," he added when asked about reports that Iran might develop its own nuclear weapons.

"Iran will always be a real support to the countries of the region and wants ties based on good neighbourhood," Mr. Hashemi, a brother of Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, said.

U.S. Secretary of Defence William Perry and Israeli

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Monday they believed Iran could build a nuclear bomb within seven to 15 years.

Mr. Perry said Washington was working with republics of the former Soviet Union to ensure they did not transfer nuclear weapons or technology to the Islamic republic.

Israel is widely believed to have nuclear weapons but has consistently refused to confirm or deny their possession.

Mr. Hashemi said Gulf countries would not be influenced by Western propaganda against Tehran because Iran did not interfere with the affairs of other states in the region.

Officials in some Gulf states have expressed concern about Iranian rearmament after its devastating 1980-88 war with Iraq, and the United Arab Emirates is embroiled in a territorial row with Tehran over the ownership of three Gulf islands.

Iran is critical of the deployment of U.S. and other

Western troops and navies in the Gulf, intensified since Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. It opposes recent contacts at multilateral level between some Gulf states and Israel.

Kuwaiti officials always say there is no American influence on them, especially regarding foreign policy," Mr. Hashemi said, adding that other states in the region say the same.

"The interest of the region requires cooperation and coordination... we expect that ties between Iran and the (Gulf) Cooperation Council (GCC) will improve daily," Mr. Hashemi said in reference to the grouping of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman.

Referring to the so-called Damascus Declaration, a regional economic and security pact set up during Iraq's 1990-91 occupation of Kuwait, Mr. Hashemi said any regional security agreement that did not involve

Iran would fail. The pact links the GCC states with Egypt and Syria.

Mr. Hashemi said the aim of his visit was to discuss ways of improving relations and what he called the danger of Israel and its widening contacts in the region.

On the Arab-Israeli peace process, he strongly criticised Arab states for increasing contacts with the Jewish state.

"Slaughtering the Arab

Arab under the feet of Israel was not, is not and will not be... a way to achieve peace. There are other ways present but, alas, Arab countries were not interested," he said.

"We are in agreement with Kuwaiti officials regarding the danger of Israel to the Middle East region. We together think that Israel is the source of tension in the region.

Mr. Hashemi delivered a letter from Mr. Rafsanjani to the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

BRUSSELS (R) — The mayor of Brussels has sharply reprimanded a member of a Belgian extreme right-wing party for giving a Nazi salute at a council meeting and making racist remarks, an aide to the mayor said. The mayor suspended the council meeting and demanded that she withdraw the fascist salute and her racist comments, Claude Paelinck told Reuters. "This was an unacceptable gesture for a member of the city council of Brussels, which is seen as the capital of Europe," Mr. Paelinck added of the incident. Brussels houses many major European institutions, including the European Commission and the headquarters of NATO.

U.S. study finds moms spank from reason, not emotion

CHICAGO (R) — Mothers most often spank their children not out of rage but because they think it's right for the child, according to a U.S. study published Monday. Researchers at the University of North Carolina and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, a borough of New York City, said they based their findings on a survey of more than 200 mothers of children aged four and under. Seventy-four percent of the mothers "believed that there are times when it is appropriate to spank a child."

The whereabouts of two others sentenced to death in absentia, an Omni-national and a Jordanian, were not immediately known. Osama Ben Laden, a Saudi

Saudi fugitive said seeking to surrender to Jordan

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Saudi national who is under death sentence in a subversion case in Jordan has filed for extradition to the Kingdom in a San Francisco court, a Jordanian lawyer said Wednesday, quoting the brother of the convict.

Samih Hussein, the lawyer, said he was awaiting official papers authorising him to represent the case of Mohammad Khalifa to Jordanian judicial authorities so that the Saudi could be brought to Jordan to stand trial.

Mohammad Khalifa, who is among 11 people sentenced to death after being found guilty of plotting and carrying out a series of bomb attacks in Jordan in late 1993 and early 1994, is in detention in a San Francisco jail on charges of violating U.S. immigration laws.

Khalifa, who was arrested in early December, more than 10 days before the State Security Court issued its verdict in the so-

called "Arab Afghan" case, is also reportedly under probe by American law enforcement agencies for possible links with extremist groups.

He was detained after U.S. authorities found that he had made a false statement in his visa application that he was not under criminal indictment anywhere while in fact he was being tried in absentia in Jordan, Mr. Hussein said.

Mr. Hussein told the Jordan Times that Abdul Khalifa, a brother of the fugitive, informed him over the phone from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on Tuesday that Mohammad had filed an application to a San Francisco judge for extradition to Jordan.

"As soon as I receive the papers authorising me to act on behalf of Khalifa, I would launch the proceedings to have him come to Jordan to stand a trial," Mr. Hussein said, adding that Osama Khalifa, another brother of Mohammad, was in San Francisco following up the affair. Khalifa is held at a deten-

tion centre in Santa Rita.

Jordanian laws stipulate that a sentence passed in absentia be annulled and a retrial be ordered if the convict surrenders himself or is arrested by Jordanian authorities and brought to the Kingdom. Sentences handed down in absentia would be reviewed only if the convict is physically present in Jordan.

The newspaper quoted the recommendation as saying that the extradition was desirable in view of Jordan's "key role in the peace process." The tradition will be in line with U.S. foreign policy, according to the recommendation, as reported by Al Hayat.

Jordan and the U.S. are expected to formalise an extradition treaty this month. The treaty, which excludes political crimes and crimes against the heads of state of the two countries, will be retroactive indefinitely.

The case against Khalifa stems mainly from an incriminating confession given to the prosecutors by a key defendant in the subversion case who was reported to have said that he met Khalifa in the Philippines some years ago and that the Saudi had given him cash to help subversion in Jordan.

Khalifa is a relative of

Osama Ben Laden, a Saudi

COLUMN 18

U.N. peace award goes to Carter, Spanish king

PARIS (R) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and King Juan Carlos of Spain will share the annual UNESCO Peace Award, jury president and former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said Tuesday. Mr. Carter was chosen because he had "contributed to the pursuit of peace in many parts of the world," Dr. Kissinger said. Juan Carlos, 57, "has huge merit in avoiding civil war in Spain, in the bringing about of democracy... and in maintaining the democratic guarantee in a very complicated situation," Dr. Kissinger told reporters after jury deliberations. There was no explanation why the group had waited so long before recognising the Spanish monarch, who assumed the throne in November 1975, two days after the death of military强人 Francisco Franco. Spain held democratic parliamentary elections two years later and approved a new constitution in 1978. The annual Felix Houphouet-Boigny Prize, named after the first president of Ivory Coast, who died in December 1993, was created by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation in 1989 and first awarded in 1991.